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LIBER ECCLESIAE WIGORNIENSIS.

A LETTER BOOK

OF THE

PRIORS OF WORCESTER.

PRESERVED IN THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE,
AMONG THE MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS OF THE EXCHEQUER.

EDITED FOR

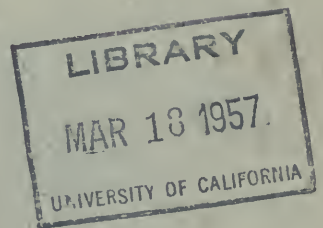
THE WORCESTERSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY THE REV. J. HARVEY BLOOM, M.A.,

Rector of Whitchurch, in the County of Warwick.

COLLATED WITH THE ORIGINAL MS.

BY MISS ETHEL STOKES.



Printed for the Worcestershire Historical Society,
By JAMES PARKER AND CO., OXFORD.

1912.



que amantur a uos a uos hanc a uos exercitoye de uos manceu au
 omu deuo les amandez. C. a. L. ad pou de denge amantur nomay ou
 omu faulles a uoy uoye. Et mofonmance de querey choses. uo les a
 uoms fan uftas uoy hco parantur a ochele du uoy ceal. Cou a. C.
 Le gice uoy de foucey. Lm du regne le Roy E. d'Edyrd fuz le Roy E. d'
 uoy uoy q' est estuyt ne pour ou oyent. ff. l'age ganyfma
 C. de ad. caly en uoy regney. Sachez uo' esty tany a pay ceste ppe
 fente hco esty obligé a. j. de. R. en dis a ceat g'ayt de fuy l'age ayone
 p' uoy de h' archaue en. C. apary les amandez dis a ceat g'ayt ala
 uandez. j. ou a son antene ayone ceste hco portant en la meson mes
 me. celi. j. en. C. le uoy de la g'unte p' hco a hant la fefante de
 ceste tany nul ouge de lay a quel parantur as uoye a lieu amant
 uoye bien a loialment fayo. Nos obligoms uo' a uo' curteffoye a uoy
 nos hanc uocbles a uoy uocbles en q' uoye q' de uoyent ala de
 yeste uoy regney le Roy a uoy ceo ayntes. En refonmance de
 quec chose uo' auoms uoy uoy ceal a ceste estuyt. Cou a. D. le uoy uoy
 de uoy du regne le Roy E. d'Edyrd fuz le Roy E. d'Edyrd ganyfma:
 In dei noie amen. Ego. S. de S. Venor. eccle. de. S. Wigorn. dyoc. uolens
 foram actiam meam de. S. crs a legitimo de tms in duo. S. de. R. apo
 eccle. de. S. Wigorn. dyoc. quon possidet de canonicis licentia pmutato
 pfecto palam a publico qd p g'ant. resignacionem (el dimissionem) d'uo
 eccle. nec sub g'ant. ferua uerba noie meo facend. Solo n' uicendo
 d'icam actiam aliquat' resignare d'icant' aut uoy. quod habeo in ead
 quomodolibet renuncio nisi ad offeru d'uo pmutacione facend' d'icet'at
 a ut illa ex hoc uoyobq' ueritat' offerunt: a non alit' quouis modo.
 In dei noie amen. Nos. S. de. R. Venor. eccle. de. S. Wigorn. dyoc. a. S.
 de. C. Venor. eccle. de. S. dyoc. dyoc. pmutat' bona fide ut infirmit' a
 raris ayostis emgelus uoyam? nos bnficia nra p'dra apertis pat'
 noy consensibz a p'sentatibz eoyd' de consensu dyocelan' nri absq' dolo
 a fraude quany p'dra bnficia nra aduincem uelle pmutare a q'ant'
 in nobis est nra nram possibilitatem licentiam dyocelan' a consensu pa
 yonay a ay p'sentat'io p'uy abm?
 In uicendo in p'po nri a duo. duo. C. de g'ra Wigorn. Epo uoy huan
 ho. a uoy filius. C. de 3. ayles obedienciam omiodam a renunciatu r'

Worcester Priory

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THIS VOLUME IS INSCRIBED
TO
THE REV. JAMES MAURICE WILSON, D.D.,
CANON OF WORCESTER,
IN GRATITUDE FOR MUCH ENCOURAGEMENT.



INTRODUCTION.

THE manuscript calendared in the following pages is preserved in the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane, where it is officially catalogued as a Cartulary of Worcester Priory. This description is obviously an inaccurate one. It is almost a register, similar to and in parts coinciding with the *Registrum Sede Vacante*, edited for the Worcester Historical Society by Mr. Willis Bund; but *Sede Vacante* matter does not form the more important part of its contents, nor the most numerous. When first noticed it seemed possible that the manuscript was the missing second register of the Priory referred to by Nash, vol. ii. app. xciv., but the present volume does not commence with any charter of King Edgar, nor is there "an *inspeximus* of the first book of the Priory" (whatever Nash may have meant by that), nor can this series of letters be very well called "acts"; on the other hand the date in the main agrees. It is better, perhaps, to call it a letter-book of certain Priors of Worcester covering the period of the first three quarters of the 14th century; but it is more than this, for *Sede Vacante* documents, certificates, manumissions and so forth occur. So that those who printed on the modern binding the words *LIBER ECCLES. WIGORN.* were perhaps wise in their generation¹. Its place in the series of National records is shewn by the paper label—

Public Record Office, Exchequer,
Augmentation Office,
Miscellaneous Books,
No. 63.

The style in which the volume is written suggests that it was meant for a Register of the Priors' correspondence most worthy of preservation either from its intrinsic interest or from the point of view of precedent.

The contents are principally the work of two scribes, one of whom copied the first 18 folios in a cursive irregular hand; the second, who is responsible for folios 19 to 46*b*, used a neater, though difficult, script, with upright letters; from folio 47 to the end of the book the letters seem to have been entered as they came to hand.

The period covered by the letters, &c., is in part that in which the following Priors directed the affairs of the Monastery.

¹ Since these words were written, the Cartulary." But a Cartulary it certainly book has been relettered "Worcester Cath. is *not*.

Priors.

- Philip de Aubyn, 1286—1296.
 *Simon de Wyre, 1296—1301.
 *John de Wyke, 1301—1317.
 *Wulstan de Bransford, 1317—1339.

- Simon le Botiler, 1339.
 Simon Crompe, 1339—1340.
 *John de Evesham, 1340—1370.

Bishops.

- *Godfrey Giffard, 1268—1302.
 William de Geynsburh, 1302—1307.
 *Walter Reynald, 1308—1313.
 *Walter de Maydestone, 1313—1317.
 *Thomas Cobham, 1317—1327.
 Adam de Orlton, 1327—1334.
 Simon de Montecute, 1334—1337.
 Thomas Hemenhale, 1337.
 Wulstan de Bransford, 1339—1349.
 John de Thoresby, 1349—1352.
 Reginald Brian, 1352—1362.
 John Barnet, 1362—1364.
 William Whittlesey, 1364—1368.
 William de Lynn, 1368—1375.

* Letters from those so marked will be found in the series.

The documents, copies of which are contained in the MS., fall under three headings:—

- I. The welfare and internal economy of the Priory of Worcester.
- II. Affairs of the Benedictine Order in the Province of Canterbury.
- III. Affairs of the Diocese of Worcester in the vacancy of the See.

I. AFFAIRS OF THE PRIORY.

THE constant movement of monks from one monastery to another both within the kingdom and abroad, for purposes of study or otherwise, is borne witness to by the series of letters of introduction and commendation from the various ecclesiastical dignitaries concerned. A Worcester monk is lent to the University of Paris and returns with a singularly illustrious record, "shewing like a brilliant star without a blemish." The same monk, John of St. Germans, while teaching in the Abbey of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, was ordered to return to Worcester carrying with him a report of the clearness of his teaching and the uprightness of his life.

Other monks are sent in various directions upon matters of importance, at one time to represent the Prior and Convent by proxy, either in Rome, in London, or before the Archbishop of Canterbury, as the case may be. One sent on special advice of Archbishop Raynald to London seems to have conducted his mission so successfully that great praise is given him in the delicate matter of reducing the exactions of the Crown.

The Prior is perpetually importuned to grant benefices or pensions to

various applicants who are commended to him by high dignitaries. For this cause letters are inserted from Arnald, cardinal-deacon of St. Mary in Porticu, which is strengthened by a further letter of Adam de Orleton, who at that time was Canon of Hereford, Papal Chaplain, and Auditor of Causes at Avignon. Both ecclesiastics unite in commending J. de la Mare, a clerk desirous of becoming a regular in the Worcester Monastery. Others write in favour of their own special protégé for whom they desire some description of benefice or corody or employment under the monastic rule. Sometimes, and more generally, it is for clerics such requests are preferred, but at times laymen are named.

One fact seems to stand prominently enough to the front, namely, that the position of a regular monk in such a monastery as that of Worcester was an exceedingly coveted one, and that the candidate required to be very powerfully supported before he had much chance of filling any vacancy when it occurred, the Monastery choosing to elect men likely to add to its prestige for their piety, learning, and promise.

Some of the correspondence relates to the assessment of the monastic income by the government of the day. The drain of the exchequer during the long war with France told heavily upon the monasteries as upon lay proprietors; indeed Worcester seems to have found it at times extremely difficult to meet the taxation. The Crown borrowed of Italian merchants and others to a large extent, notably from the Peruzzi of Florence, giving in security for the loan the staple of wool, which was strenuously levied. This led to an interesting series of letters, in one of which the unfortunate Duke of Clarence is begged to intercede with the King in order to afford the monks some relief. In the same connection the Bishop of the neighbouring friendly See of Hereford also intervenes, and at the prayer of the Prior Wulstan de Bransford writes in the convent's interest to a certain R. de A., who as king's clerk may have had influence with the King. Nor is it only the temporal powers that are invoked, since the Prior also desires from his Bishop special prayers and suffrages on the Priory's behalf in their sore strait.

In some small details the House of Worcester was required to bring itself into line with the usage of other Cathedrals. This, really a matter touching the Benedictine Order, was effected naturally enough by the Abbot of Westminster, as President of the Chapter General in the Province of Canterbury, pointing out the irregularity complained of in a courteous letter to the Prior. No theological lecturer had been appointed at Worcester, and the appointment, when made, was not by *election*; whereas the rule for Cathedral Churches was that such a lecturer should always be elected on the occurrence of a vacancy. Hence the intervention: whether the Prior of Worcester obeyed the abbot or not, does not appear; presumably he did, and inserted this letter in his letter-book to account for his action.

Less courteous, though clothed in the language of becoming humility, is the letter of the Minister of the Friars Minors to Prior Aubyn (f. 22). The Franciscans were at the height of their popularity, and it was already a common practice for persons *in extremis* to assume the Franciscan habit, to secure for themselves the benefit of dying in the Order and of burial with the Friars. In 1290, which seems to be the date of the letter, the Chapter were still inclined to resist what they doubtless considered an encroachment on their rights; and the Sacrist had actually seized and buried in the Cathedral yard the body of a Worcester citizen who, whether he died with the cord of St. Francis or not, had certainly willed his body to be interred in the Minorite cemetery. So the Provincial Minister, William de Geynsburh, who was himself shortly to become Bishop of Worcester, writes to the Prior on the subject. Authority was all on his side; the Friars' privileges were undoubted; "it is for your own advantage," he writes, "that I advise you to yield. If you do not, I have only to send a couple of Friars to Rome;—you may have heard what our influence is with those Morning Stars": so he describes the Roman Curia. The Friars had their way in the end, but not until the Bishop had intervened on their behalf.

II. AFFAIRS OF THE BENEDICTINE ORDER.

Some little matter of an interesting nature is brought to light in the letters, and one point has already been alluded to: but the condition not of the usages of the cathedral church but of the students of the Benedictine Order studying at Oxford forms the bulk of the correspondence between the Presidents of the Chapter General and the Prior. The University of Oxford at its induction was a guild, a guild of study, following the common lines of a medieval craft guild. The community of masters and scholars were bound together, as masters and apprentices of a craft were, for the purposes of study, and the masters were chosen from those who had already passed through the preliminary stages. Students came in part from the cathedral schools, but were in truth a somewhat motley throng of all ages, and included in their number parish priests who had received episcopal license to leave their cure for the purpose, as well as monks and others, Canon law and Theology forming their chief subjects. Students had much freedom, and passed from one University to another, and from Universities to the greater Monasteries in a manner which seems strange to modern ideas. Control was of the slightest, and the division of students into rival bands of Northern and Southern, together with the rivalry and jealousy of various monastic orders, and of adherence to diverse systems of Philosophy led to endless broils. These disturbances greatly exercised the minds of the Chapter General of the Benedictine Order and led to much correspondence

When it chanced that Oxford was for the moment without a Master of their Order, the Chancellor of the University wrote pointing out what reforms were then in contemplation, and the question of money for the students and their masters was always in the agenda; the President of the Chapter General appealing frequently for funds. The House of Merton seems to have had specially intimate dealings with Worcester, one of the earliest legible letters in the volume being from that House to the Prior, praying for the same method of preferment within the Diocese of Worcester as elsewhere. To this House Archbishop Raynald gave the advowson of Wolford shortly after his translation in 1313, and for this gift the masters and scholars sought confirmation from the Prior in the vacancy of the See.

III. AFFAIRS OF THE DIOCESE.

The ancient privileges by which the Prior acted in many respects in place of the Bishops during a vacancy of the See, and the more complex situation which arose when the See of Canterbury was also vacant at the same time, had been admirably arranged and settled by Archbishop Boniface, and from that date onwards a number of original documents and an invaluable Register remain, but in the present volume a duplicate of much that the Register contains is presented to us, and some few things which are not in the Register.

There is nothing of Ordination, or Confirmation, or Consecration of churches, save only a single letter of the Bishop of Llandaff, stating that he is willing to perform such rites as the Prior needs, but is not quite satisfied that the Prior's authority is good; he therefore asks for further proof, since he has heard the Prior's right questioned.

The method of suppressing scandal and scandalmongers was probably at that time as effectual as could be wished, since after enquiry in the Consistory Court, which passed under the Prior's control with the vacancy, the mandate of the greater excommunication was published in every church of the Rural Deanery in which the offenders lived; while in the case of moral offences strenuous penance was enjoined before absolution was pronounced. There was at least one instance of difficulty with the consistory Court Seal and Archives. For we learn that the Prior repeatedly requested Master Benedict de Pastone, rector of Blockley, who had acted as official for Bishop Walter Raynald, to give up the keys, archive-chest and seal of his office. When pressed on the point he replied that he knew nothing about the change of custody, and a monition had to be issued before he actually gave up the seal, &c., into the hands of the monk appointed by the Prior. The greater part of the *Sede Vacante* matter found in the present volume has been thoroughly dealt with by Mr. Willis Bund in his several introduc-

tions to the published parts of the Sede Vacante Register, and there is no need to traverse the same ground. A letter, almost the last in this collection (ff. 65*b*—67*b*; pp. 55—59), is interesting as a specimen of a document of which there is no example in the Sede Vacante Register. It is an appeal from some person, presumably writing on behalf of the Chapter, to the Archbishop, exhorting him to confirm the election which the Chapter had made, of their Prior, Wolstan de Bransford, to the vacant see. Twice before had the Prior been elected, and twice before had his election been confirmed; but on those occasions the Pope had ‘provided’ a bishop of his own choice. This time the election was allowed, as it is probable the writer of the letter knew well would be the case. But he does not stint his arguments on that account. The Bible, the Canon Law, the Digest, and Aristotle, are all drawn upon to prove to the Archbishop that he ought to confirm the election. It may be supposed that this display of erudition was considered fitting to the occasion.

It only remains to point out the method with which this difficult manuscript has been dealt with. In the first place the Editor spent three weeks in London making transcripts and abstracts of the whole volume. These have been carefully collated with the original manuscript by Miss Ethel Stokes, of the firm of Stokes and Cox, Record Agents, of 75 Chancery Lane, who has spent very considerable time and labour upon it. It has then had the revising hand of the General Editor, so that it is perhaps not unreasonable to suppose that, considering its difficulties, it is fairly accurate.

WHITCHURCH RECTORY,
STRATFORD-ON-AVON,
January, 1912.

Note by the General Editor.

MR. BLOOM has expressed the hope that the successive revisions by Miss Stokes and myself have ensured accuracy. But it ought to be understood that the original text, being evidently the work of a scribe who took no pains to understand the letters which he was copying, is full of mistakes. Where these errors are obvious we have emended them; but in many cases the general sense is so obscured as to make any attempt at emendation futile.

S. G. HAMILTON.

LIBER ECCLESIAE WIGORNIENSIS.

Fol. 1. Letter to the Prior and Chapter of Worcester concerning the reception of some person unnamed into their Community. [Formula only.]

Letter entitled in the margin, *Littera Amicabilis bene dictata*.

1b. Salutem etc. quia angustie mihi sunt undique et de consilio domini matris presumo consolationem. Ecce iam per dies multos continuata est calamitas nostra, et licet inter pericula et collisiones maris et fluctuum ad portum tamen aliquem tandem devenimus. Set ecce nova et sevir insurgit tempestas et in scopulos reliditur navicula nostra et 'quid expectant cani mei meliora tempora,' Augustinus dicit, 'non venient et quid mihi adhuc vivere.' In veritate tedet animam meam vite mee et . . . cor meum meret. Nonne mori melius quam vitam ducere mortis. Set dicitur michi expecta reexpecta modicum et adhuc modicum et nubila convertentur in radios et luna maculam non habebit. Aurea succedent Saturni tempora: verba sunt hec et sibulus in ventum vadens. Quando potius . . . contra se divisus est et inter consanguineos et notos gravior vestra afflictio. Non est homo sine pace nisi in patria sua. Revelo domino meo quod diu tenui, unum est cui incumbit cogitatus meus et in hoc solo beneplacito dei mei suspirat desiderium meum. Consolatur me veritas dicens. 'Si vos persecuti fuerint in una civitate fugite in aliam.' O me felicem si premisisset me deus meus in regionem longinquam, ubi in gaudio comedissem bucellam meam. Nunc autem comedo panem doloris et potum meum cum fletu misceo. Nonne pacificus fuit . . . sus meus et votum meum ad contemptum mundi [?]. Quid mihi et presidi. Quid . . . et monacho. Servum dei non oportet litigare. Ego autem litigiis plenus sum . . . ad leges tinniunt aures mee ut quid scire simulem quod nescio.

Deprecatoria, pro
reassumendis
monachis. Quantam de dilectione vestra habeamus fiduciam licet immeriti solus enda intuetur, hac confidentia vobis omni omni qua possumus affectione supplicamus quatenus etc. Ex compassione fraterna afficimur tota die quatenus misericordie illius qui omnes miseretur et qui dimittit nobis debita nostra sicut etc. Verbera patris habuistis in emittendo, verbera si placet

matris habere velitis in revocando. Vinum infudistis, oleum infundere dignemini ut de vobis merito possit dici Oleum effusum nomen vestrum. Et si in archa cordis vestri fuerit virga correctionis assit et misericordia affluentia ma discedimus. Facti sumus in derisum omni populo et vicinis nostris in obprobrium et inimici nostri subsanaverunt nos moventes capita super nos. Pater amantissime precessit iudicium vestrum, subsequatur si placet misericordia et moveat pietatis vestre viscera . . . , . . . tas et . . . filis. Quiescat iam ira vestra et revocatis ovibus ad gregem proprium fiat reconciliatio. In tempore iracundie sedet in tristitia illa quondam celebris J[erusalem], et versa est in luctum cithara nostra et organum nostrum in vocem silentium quibus subveniatis etc.

2. Lamentatio super Saludem etc. Vestre sanctitatis apices super transitu Mortem Prela[ti]. pii patris suscepimus multam dolendi materiam continentes, eo quod nobis dolor insedit altius quo et illum et vos dileximus familiaris. Et quia caritatis impulsu digitum consolacionis aptaremus ad abstergendas ab oculis nostris lacrimas subito et nos nostras in diluvio lacrimarum multarum sensimus defluere pupillas. Temperacio quidem nobis dolori irrepsit, set nos ex proviso multiplicius affligit ex decessu namque patris vestri communem trahimus dolendi materiam; nobis autem insuper afflictio vestra necessitatem inducit condolendi. Et quia vos in dolore superamus quo vos delectione uno condolendi gradu p . . imus . . non nobis iusta subest causa dolendi qui in tam nobilis translatione membri W. ecclesiam videmus depauperari? Dominus nobis erat auctoritate, pater reverencia, frater compassione, socius affabilitate, amicus in omni humilitatis et honoris exhibitione. Et quis in eius subtractione iustas nobis neget lacrimas? Deducant igitur oculi nostri lacrimas per diem et noctem et non taceant. Cum contritione magna contrita est W. ecclesia, plaga pessima vehementer; verumtamen non est in planctu diucius comorandum ubi ratio suadere potest solacium licet nostre carnalitatibus inobediens fragilitas rationis multociens non admittit habenas. Cum igitur pie recordationis prioris vestri vitam a conversatione sua constet usque ad obitum suum precessisse laudabilem consequenter constare vobis debet illum ad vitam transisse meliorem. Cohibeat se igitur nostri doloris immensitas intra modestie metas, quoniam illum quem plangimus requiei sicut speramus suscepit eternitas.

Deprec[at]oria. Saludem etc. Non est fastidium petendi ubi largitas est datoris; frequenter quidem nos pulsamus et semper aperitur nobis. Frequenter nos petimus et semper fit nobis Nec pudet nos inprobe vos petere, quia experti sumus vos sine fastidio nos exaudire. Estis etenim adiutor in oportunitatibus tribulatione. Et nunc quidem tempus miserendi nobis advenit in tribulationibus que invenerunt nos meritos Audivimus enim litteras impetratas fuisse multa quidem

contra nos nichil autem pro vobis continentes. Apereat igitur caritas vestra ad nos quia [*2 lines quite illegible*].

[The above four letters appear to be mere formulas.]

2*b*. One letter quite illegible.

Venerande congregationis domino Dei gratia P. etc. Frater R. etc. salutem et benemeritum conversacionis. Negotium vestrum per dilectum armigerum [? nostr]um presentium exhibitorem vobis oretenus plenius exponendi solitudine iam domini Comitis ea de causa nobis nostrisque inferendam vestram rogamus corditer caritatem quatinus grato inherentes consilio nos nostrosque ab huiusmodi devolvere velitis . . etatione indempnes prout ex debito grato repensionis permissionisque vestre tenemini si placet conservantes, dictoque armigero nostro [et illis?] qui vice nostra vobis est expositurus fidem adhibentes plenariam. Super hiis etiam aliisque vestre voluntati cedentibus nos per dictum armigerum nostrum supplicamus literatorie certificetis. Valete ad vestre regimen congregationis.

Excellentissimo principum ac pre mortalibus honorando domino suo E. Dei gratia regi Anglorum semper illustri suis devotissimus presbiter Frater W. etc. quicquid honoris et reverentie poterunt in eo per quem reges regnant et principes dominantur. Vestre serenissime dominationis continent apices iam recepti (*recepte*, MS.) quod sustentationem qualem P. de A. de domo nostra aliquando recepit talem faceremus A. C. domicelle vestre consortis Isabelle domine nostre regine quodque literas nostras eidem inde faceremus [etc.]¹.

3. Letter to J. de R. . . . , professor and auditor of the "sacred palace." For the carrying on of the business commenced by the writer's predecessors in the court of Rome, they have appointed W. T. and (largely on the testimony of J. de R. himself) R. de B. to be their proctors. They revoke all previous procuratorial letters, and beg J. de R. to make this revocation public.

Excellentissime religionis viris domino Abbati Monasterii de B. et eiusdem loci collegio venerando . . . clericus T. de C. salutem et quicquid . . . obsequii et honoris cum v . . . a promptitudine complacendi.

¹ See Close Roll, 16 Edw. II. m. 18*d*., where letters, dated 29 Dec. 1322, are enrolled on behalf of Alice Conan, for main-

tenance as was given at Worcester to Peter Davilliers. See also *Registrum Prioratus*, etc. (Hale), pp. 175—180.

Dilecti vero T. de C. [?] clerici latoris presentium morum honestas intentionis sinceritas et affectionis singularitas quam erga vestram societatem concepit prout in ipso ex evidencia signata didici me inducunt vestre caritatis viscera pro eodem piis precibus [*The remainder is illegible.*]

3*b.* Illegible.

4. Letter of W.¹, abbot of the monastery of the Blessed Mary of Cirencester, to Simon ², prior of Worcester, certifying that T., son of John de Bichtus, a clerk, is a free man and of honest life, &c., in the usual form of such a commendation.

One letter entirely illegible.

A letter almost illegible appointing the morrow of St. P. as the day of Visitation.

4*b.* Letter introducing the bearer, J. de M., clerk, who has been removed from his service without fault of his own, at the request of his friends, who are also the writer's friends, and he begs the prior to employ him in some of his manors, or in some other office.

Letter from W.³, prior of Worcester, to the prior of K.⁴ concerning R. de B., incumbent of a vicarage in the patronage of his house, who desires to exchange that living with the vicar of T. in the patronage of the Abbot and Convent of P.⁵, and asking his consent.

Dilectis sibi in Christo amicis precordialibus viris magne religionis et discretionis dominis P. ve[*sic*] W. et[c?] W. de B. salutem et petitionis porrecte gratuitum sublevamen. Epistola vestre caritatis in presentia mea exarata de vestris oppressionibus et angustiis inseritis amaritudo amarissima et materia concreta doloribus cor meum et e.. vires ocupavit incidendo, quod cum per similes regias incursiones prius infestatum tandem ad effectum vestre petitionis oculos medicina tendo solutionem ipsius pecunie ad quam mihi facienda infesto a [*2 lines illegible.*]

5. A letter without name of writer or addressee Sane intellexi quod firmata inter vos et dominum. R. de W. pro fructibus ecclesie mee de

¹ William Hereward, 1335-52.

⁴ Kenilworth.

² Simon Crump, 1339-40.

⁵ ? Pershore.

³ Wulstan de Bransford, 1317—1339.

B.[?] conventione fructus ocupatis et in usus votivos eosdem administratis. De vestra reverenda benignitate et fideli administratione fiduciam gerens vobis instantia qua possum supplico ampliori quatenus pecuniam pro fructibus ecclesie predicte ad quam nulle [3 lines illegible] prosequentes predictos adicio si quatenus citra festum Natalis Dominici proximum de xx marcis me are velitis quibus pro quibusdam casibus fortuitis immensam et extunc fervidus in vestris pre s et vestrorum negociis ad opera responsiva. Ad augmentum religionis sancte vos conservet Filii virginis gloriose; et graciosum et humile mandatum vestrum sincera fidelitate acceptans acceptum habeo et recommendatum.

Letter (possibly from the J. de M. mentioned above), thanking the Prior (or Bishop) for his munificence, and expressing the writer's hope that he may have an opportunity of shewing his gratitude.

5. Letter from the Warden of the House of scholars of Merton asking the Prior to give audience to Master R. de C. and Master J. de N., fellows of their house, whom they are sending as messengers to ask that the same methods may be allowed with regard to livings in the gift of their house, in the diocese of Worcester, as in other dioceses.

5b. A letter, of which only a few words are legible, from R. de T. to amantissimo domino P.

A letter too illegible to allow of consecutive reading concerning the negotiation of some very urgent matter connected with the Order.

6b. Conclusion of a letter, the earlier portion (on folio 6) illegible.

Ceterum vestre preminencie graciose regratior omni affectu quo possum de omnibus que a vobis abundanter recepi et maxime de vestris literis ultimis que licenciam continebant quod mihi possem cameram edificare, quod pro paupertate et substantie exilitate hucusque complere nequivi nec potero in continenti, set sunt due germane sorores in nostra congregatione, videlicet A. C. et J. quarum pater sumptibus suis unam cameram edificaret, ita quod proprietas illius domus cederet in usus mihi dum vixero et illis si supervixerint vel earum alteri sine deleta cui[us]vis priorisse vel alterius existentis sub vobis sine causa rationabili et ordinata. Igitur vestre dominationi sincere preces humiles porrigo et devotas quatinus licenciam mihi concessam sub modo premissis in predictas sorores quas religiose et honeste

se habere sciatis dignemini prorogare, et eo libentius si placet quod mihi subveniunt et famulantur devote. Quid censeatis faciendum de istis petitis et qualiter vestre calamus referat autoritatis. Vestra dominatio in prosperis floreat perpetuo duratura.

Letter of the Prior of Worcester to Sir R. de H., rector of C. W.¹, pointing out that the pension due to the Cellarer's office is in arrears to the inconvenience of the Priory. He desires it may be paid before the Nativity of our Lord, and the Rectory buildings, which he hears are in a ruinous state, are to be repaired immediately.

A further letter, expressing surprise that the pension still remains unpaid and the buildings unrepaired, commanding the recipient to write back when and what he proposes to do.

7. Letter of T. to the Bishop desiring a meeting on Thursday in the chapel of H.

Preclare discretionis viro magistro Johanni de S. P. etc. salutem etc. cum incremento honoris. Vestri status magnificentia intellecta gaudium intima nostra fouit ac ei regraciabamur ex corde qui vestros ut suorum actus dirigit et progressus. Ceterum exposito nobis negotio super optinenda possessione ecclesie de D. et modo per J. de B. sicuti nobis voluistis exponere quodque super illo fieret vobis responsum Lincolnie isto die dominico habita deliberatione cum nostris per triduum, vestre dilectioni sincere duximus intimandum quod quamquam diligentiam exactam fecerimus ut sciremus quo esset a suis habere non potuimus quod foret per? . . . in isto casu, quia licet vellemus, illo renitente nostrum propositum non consequemur. Hiis igitur ponderatis aut negotium differre aut alio modo expedire oportebit ad presens. Vos in statu prospero et benevolencia consueta et quoad ecclesiam nostram et quoad nos altissimus semper dirigat et conservet.

Sincere dilectionis viro et sibi speciali amico domino de C., F. de G. salutem perpetuam cum affectu placendi devote. Super honoribus et beneficiis nobis et nostris inmeritis nuper cum essemus in partibus vestris inpensis amplissime vobis grates referimus puro corde. Et de tot factis . . . libus fiduciam asumentes, vos non solum in nostris negotiis verum et pro alienis censuimus exorare, eo facilius et benignius audiri sperantes quod petitionis series continebit honestum. Sane nuperime inter vos

¹ ? Child's Wickham.

et vestrum J. de R. intellecto procelloso tumultu, vestre caritati duximus suggerendum, cum quiescamus in vestra quiete et de vestra inquietudine perturbemur, quod velitis diem locum et horam statuere in quibus vos vel aliquis vestrorum habens plenariam potestatem ad omnia facienda que poterunt pacem inter vos concernere voluerit vel debebit adesse. Habituri pro certo quod nos et omnes alii communes amici et benevoli instabimus opere tam efficaci quod deus pacis et dilectionis maneat semper vobiscum. Vestrum beneplacitum de hiis et aliis que valemus portitor presentium referat per scripturam si placet. Vester status in prosperis floreat et honore.

7b. Suo [?] clerico speciali etc. Cum inter nostrates quam plures ut in aliis domibus ignari juris presumant ullicita [*sic*] sententia suspensionis et excommunicationis nec ne [*sic*] notas irregularitatis incurrendo diversas, se miscendo divinis et alias contra canonum instituta, vos rogamus sincero affectu quatinus omni fictione postposita petitionem quam lator presentium vobis tradet ex parte domini H., Prioris M.¹, quo ad singula in illa contenta faciatis celeriter expediri. Similem nobis literam pro nostris per omnia inpetrantes, sumptus pro utrisque fundendo de vestro. Nescimus enim divinare quanti constabunt inpetrationes talium literarum. Scientes quod sumptus appositi vobis integre et celeriter exsolvantur eorum cognita quantitate. Nova Curie cum novis constitutionibus si que sint vos precamur mittatis.

Universis etc. P. etc. salutem etc. Noverit universitas vestra N. de W. firmiter obligari quod si super confirmationem N. quam mihi fecit aliquando mota fuerit questio ipsum in omnibus et per omnia indempnem conservabo supponens me et omnia bona mea mobilia et immobilia habita et habenda iurisdictioni et cohercioni Archidiaconorum W. et T.² ut ambo vel unus eorum habeat vel habeant potestatem compellendi me si necesse fuerit per predicta bona ad observationem premissorum. In cuius rei testimonium presenti scripto sigillum meum apposui Datum etc. Anno etc. [*sic*].

Letter of W.³ prior of Worcester, to some person unnamed asking for payment of moneys due to him.

8. Salutem. Iniuncte mihi procurationis [*sic*] magnitudinis sue mole me premit et in desperationis profundo pene naufragari compellit. Hucusque circumspexi et non erat auxiliator; quesivi inter amicos et notos et

¹ ? Hugh, Prior of Malvern, 1314.

² ? Worcester and Taunton.

³ Wulstan de Bransford, 1317—1339.

non fuit qui adiuvaret, qui humeris consolationis onus nostrum ad horam levigaret. Expectabam ut cum saltem verbo abbreviato et consolatorio salvum me faceres a pusillanimitate spiritus et tempestate. Spes mea a iuventute mea. Expectabam ut consolationes tue letificarent animam meam in quo specialiter confidit cor meum. Et ecce iam annus transiit quod nec lingua calami nec ore certi nuncii de statu meo inquisisti vel de tuo me certificasti. Quid dicam aut quid respondebo mihi mecum super hoc disputanti. Num illa tua olim caritas abundans adeo exaruit ut de eius verbi ubere non possit tantillum exprimi, unde calamus tuus semel possit intingi? Set forsitan quia tibi postremo scribenti non rescripsi ideo siluisti? Insufficiens est hec excusatio quoniam curarum mearum cumulus que mihi multociens preripiunt ut quecumque volo illa faciam, sicut me a rescribendo excusat, ita te quod sepius non rescripsisti accusat. Set sufficiant hec tibi ad presens verba pro verberibus dummodo consolationis tue beneficium mihi restituas quod dampnose subtraxisti. Valete.

Letter testimonial on behalf of N., certifying him to be competent "in litteratura et morum honestate."

Fraeterne dilectionis anplexum et sancte religionis optentum, consors precarissime; vestram quam sepius experti amicitiam ad presens non desinimus pulsare clementiam. Hinc est quod dominus noster rex mercatoribus de societate Peruch'¹ in centum libris tenetur prout per tallias et evidencias alias inter dominum regem et eos habitas et penes nos remanentes liquet manifeste pro qua pecunia eis de decima triennali² solvenda per dominum nostrum regem est assignatio facta ac mercatores ipsi in centum libris et amplius nobis sunt astricti et tallias et evidencias quas de pecunia per Regem eis debita habemus propter varia pericula et viarum discrimina ad partes alias destinare nequimus hiis diebus. Et intelleximus quod decima triennalis domino nostro Regi in diocesi Wigorniensis soluenda per vos est colligenda. Quapropter vestram benivolentiam ex corde duximus deprecandam quatinus partes vestras sic interponere dignemini pro nobis fructuosas ut de decima illa triennali a vobis solutio valeat nobis fieri et si assignatione alia iam sitis preventi et artati pro solutione aliis facienda et vestrum sanum consilium quid et qualiter per nos in hac parte sit faciendum, velle vestrum et consilium

¹ The Peruzzi of Florence.

² May 20, 44 ?Edw. III. A writ has been sent to Worcester and other places ordering a certificate to be sent of the names

of the Collectors of the Triennial tenths, which the clergy had granted to the King at the receipt of the Exchequer without allowance of tallies.

bonitas vestra nobis grata rescribere nobis dignetur per harum baiulum una cum summa illa ad quam se extendit in diocesi decima. Et ex quo tallias de scaccario pro solutione nobis facienda habemus sufficientes, vos rogamus quatinus postpositis aliis vestro mediante auxilio in solutione valeamus preferri. Et si quid erga nos volueritis, in omnibus cum fiducia precipietis. In virgine gloriosa vigeat semper salus vestra.

87. Fraterne dilectionis amplexum confrater dilectissime. Qui precibus nostris et rogatibus benignitatis vestre et clementie aures apertas semper reperimus preces vobis effundere non omittimus. Hinc est ut accepimus quod bone memorie Willelmus dudum Wigorniensis Episcopus unum campum Comenhulle nuncupatum infra districtum Manerii de Aluechirche situatum contulit Nicholao de Warwyk, quod iam adquisivit dilectus noster dominus T. Blancfront qui confirmationem per vos de eodem factam quam in hac parte ignorat intervenisse certis de causis credit sibi fore necessariam. Quapropter vestram solitam deprecamur clementiam quatinus scrutatis registris vestris de confirmatione huiusmodi si que interveniebat dictum dominum Thomam si libeat reddere dignemini certiolem et in casu quo confirmatio valeat reperiri dum tamen ecclesie vestre aut vobis non sit preiudiciale pro confirmatione habenda partes vestras graciosas interponere nostri contemplantatione et amore. Nobis vestra cum omni fiducia precipientes vestre voluntatis beneplacita. In virgine etc. Scriptum etc.

Amice karissime specialiter vos rogamus quatinus placeat vobis cartam donationis bone memorie domini Willelmi de Geynesb¹ nuper Episcopi Wigorniensis factam Nicholao de Warwich de quibusdam terris in Aluechirche confirmare et conventum vestrum ut graciose confirmetur inducere velitis nostris precibus et amore. Semper in domino valeatis.

A letter on behalf of the bearer, . . le M., who comes on business.

9. A letter begging the recipient to find some employment among his other people for the bearer, Richard de Perham.

A similar letter on behalf of the said Richard de Percham, who has been for a considerable time in the service of the Bishop of Ely and of the writer.

Venerabili in Christo patri domino A.² Dei gratia Episcopo Herefordensi Sui humiles et devoti W. P. et C. etc. obedientiam reverentiam debitam cum

¹ W. de Geynesburh, 1302—1308.

² Adam de Orleton, 1317—1327.

honore. Vestre sanctitatis affectionem prehabitam contemplantes oculis hominis utriusque occasionem vobis supplicandi invenimus affluentem. Etenim vos protectorem et defensorem ecclesie nostre et negotiorum suorum a tempore cognitionis inite vel ab ipsius su[s]cepto regimine habuimus indefensum. Igitum dominationem vestram piissimam suppliciter deprecamur ut latori presentium quem consuevistis prebeatu[m] auditum et super auditis remedium providere dignemini quod ecclesia nostra et nos vestris adiutoriis de profundo tribulationis erepti in quiete pacifica vivere valeamus domino liberius obsequendo. Vos in prosperis et honoribus altissimus dirigat et conservet temporibus duraturis.

96. A similar letter to W. ¹, archbishop of Canterbury.

Approbate discretionis viro A. de M. etc. salutem in Jesu et virgine gloriosa. Cum vobis debita sit pecunia de tempore predecessoris duplici de causa ipsam vobis mandamus, ulterius implorando quod teneatis pro constanti que vobis lator presentium exprimet vice nostra [etc.].

Reverende religionis patri domino Dei gratia etc. et eiusdem loci conventui venerando Frater W. etc. salutem et sinceros caritatis amplexus ut omnipotentis Dei cuius dispositione nos speramus onus impositum recepisse misericordiam nobis propiciam faciamus nostri confratris dompni S. de B. vobiscum iam diu laudabiliter conversati, sicuti per vestros apices concepimus fidedignos duximus misereri ipsum ad nostrum collegium revocando. Vobisque de caritate quam nobis exhibuistis in ipso referimus munera gratiarum vestro beneplacito in hiis que peterimus perpetuo mancipati. Et ut obedientie filii videamur pro sua mora iuxta ordinationem capituli generalis xls. mittimus per presentem. Vestri status et honor vigeant in eternum.

Venerabili viro amico nostro si placet in Christo karissimo domino R. de A. domini nostri illustris regis Anglie clerico comensali A.² permissione divina ecclesie Her[efordensis] minister quicquid potest amicitie et salutis cum promptitudine conplacendi. Licet dominus noster Rex ad defensionem ecclesiarum et monasteriorum aliorumque . . . rum sui regni que sicut vastis ut de potentum oppressionibus . . . variis adverse fortune plagis istis presertim temporibus sunt multipliciter desolata, ex suscepti regiminis debito teneatur, tamen ut intelleximus Monasterium Wygornien[se] quod premissis et aliis diversis premitur oneribus debitorum nouis impositionibus mandavit per suas literas aggravari. Nos . . . ad honores et comoda dicti monasterii a qua bona plura suscepimus . . . [*here begins fol. 10, illegible.*]

¹ Walter Raynald, 1313—1328.

² Adam de Orleton.

10—11. Illegible.

11*b*. Conclusion of a letter as follows.

. . . quodque quicquid vobis in hac parte suggeritur non ex eiusdem propria sed emulorum suorum malicia fac . . . acta . . . Discretionem vestram supplicando requirimus et consulendo rogamus quatinus a talium persecutione si placet quanto possitis citius disistatis, sub asertionis nostre testimonio tenentes pro vero quod exitum honorificum parare vobis non poterunt concepta de seminibus invidorum quin potius indignationi procerum et magnatum vos incurrere facient, qui ipsum quem prosequimini in clericum colligunt (?) et amicum et sic iam cordi suum impresserunt negotium quod cum ipso contra vos efficaciter dextras dabunt, et ub . . . s benefactis ad gratiam inimicos habebitis ad iacturam. Incomparabiliter igitur melius vobis et monasterio vestro fore censemus ut error huiusmodi in matutino sue . . . quam ad finale vituperium ulterius progrediatur ad actum. Successibus votiis et prosperis valeat domine valor vester.

Letter to the Prior from W.¹, bishop of Worcester. He hopes to bear the charge laid upon him by the affluence and wisdom of the Prior, both in spiritual and temporal things: he begs also that the Prior will assist his commissaries in the disposition of the spiritualities and temporalities until the Bishop himself can dispose thereof.

12. Illegible.

12*b*. Magne discretionis viro et amico si placet domino J. de W. illustris regis Anglie cancelario sui Prior et Conventus quicquid poterunt amicitie reverentie et honoris. Credimus vos audisse qualiter dominus noster Episcopus pro diversis incarceratis fugitivis tenetur domino Regi in M. marcis et amplius; nunc vero quia ita languet in extremis quod de vita eius diu[tius?] non speratur, sui de precepto suo omnia eius catalla vendunt ammovent dissipant et consumunt ita quod ad obitum eius parum vel nil invenietur de bonis mobilibus unde domino Regi satisfieri valeat de predictis, sicque episcopatus remanebit in hiis quasi irrecuperabiliter oneratus, nemora insuper vivaria et parci ita destruuntur indies usquequaque quod de eo dolendum est vehementer. Vestram igitur dominationem devote requirimus et rogamus ad vos tanquam ad fidum et speciale refugium recurrentes quatinus in premissis pro statu domini Regis Episcopatus Wygorniensis et episcopi qui pro . . . succedet manifestum et utile remedium . . . is

¹ Walter Raynald, 1308—1313, afterwards Archbishop.

si placeat adhiberi Nobis rescribentes que vestre . . . voluntati. Semper valeatis [etc.].

Letter from the Prior and Convent to the Bishop of Hereford, asking him to promote W. de G., bearer of the presents [a member of their house?], to the order of a priest (*sacerdotalem*) at the Ordination to be held this present Saturday.

13. Sit suo socio et amico si placet carissima . . . honor. Quia domini mei Prior et conventus Wygorniensis erga me insteterunt quod hac die Mercurii Oxonie in agitatione cuiusdam cause contra eos per Priorem et Conventum Maioris Malvernæ coram quibusdam iudicibus mote quibus estis assessor nominatus et electus una cum aliis interesset. Nec vero quo[?]ad presens hoc facere absque dampno sicut in proximo tractatu nostro nuncius[?] vobis refferam viva voce. Placeat amicitie vestre auditis et discussis exceptionibus coram vobis propositis iudicio meo de iure fundatis graciosius admittere; vel si hoc facere non possitis prefigere partibus terminum ad plenius faciendum bene[?] distantem et diffusum in quem terminum . . . domino dante vos videbo. Ista habeatis cordi et ore vicissitudinis retributor dante domino ad maiora valeat . . . s socius carissimus . . . salute.

Letter of attorney to W. de C., rector of the church of P., by J. de E., clerk, recently presented by Sir William de R., knight, to the church of B. F. in the diocese of Worcester, to do all things necessary for his institution, etc.

13^b. Letter to W. ¹, archbishop of Canterbury, introducing the bearer, Robert ² de . . ., a monk of Worcester, who comes on business connected with their house.

Letter of W. ³, prior of Worcester, to the Abbot of Oseney, commending Fr. Simon Crumpe, who comes on like business.

14. Letter of W. de H., clerk, canon of Hereford and rector of the church of . . ., to the Vicar-General of the Bishop of Worcester, concerning John, son of John de F., and kinsman of the Sacristan of Worcester Cathedral, whom the writer has confirmed as apparitor in the deaneries of Worcester? and Powycke.

Letters patent by the Prior of Worcester touching some agreement with the Abbot and Convent of Evesham.

¹ Walter Reynald, 1313—1328.

² Possibly Robert de Hambury.

³ Wulstan de Bransford.

Mandate of Adam¹, bishop of Hereford, to the Prior of Worcester, appointing A. de B. his attorney.

14*b*. W.², bishop of Worcester, to brother John de W.³ This Sunday next after the Feast of St. Mark, come to us, as you love us, at one o'clock, to dine for the comfort of us both on good fat fresh venison and a fat crane that has likewise chanced to be given us, and which we will not eat without you.

Letter of the Abbot of R. to the Prior and Convent. He learns from his bailiff of the Manor of R., that R. de H., the prior's servant, has blocked up the watercourse and mill-pool, and impounds the Abbot's cattle and pigs, to his grave damage.

Letter of J.³ prior of Worcester, to W.⁴ bishop of Worcester, asking him to be present with the Bishop of Hereford at the Prior's installation on Sunday next after the Feast of St. Michael.

15. Mandate of the Prior to W. de Ad., presbyter of the diocese of Worcester, to act as Coadjutor to J., rector of the Church of F., who is unable to perform all the duties of his office owing to ill health, &c., and cannot govern his own affairs, and to make an inventory of his goods and render an account of all.

The Prior, &c., to the Sequestrator and to the Dean of C.⁵ We have been personally informed that H., rector of the church of R.⁶ in this diocese, neglects the cure of souls committed to him, by deserting the cure of his church and converting the goods belonging thereto to . . . uses, or rather by wholly consuming them, being incapable of looking after his affairs. You shall enquire into the truth of this matter by trustworthy men, and send us the inquest thereof made. Given at Worcester.

Mandate respecting the goods of N. le H., citizen of Worcester, the disposal of which according to law belongs to the Prior. They are valued at 40*s.*, which will not pay his debts of 20*li.* of silver and more to his creditors, and his funeral expenses. The Prior therefore resigns right of administration to Emma, relict of the deceased.

¹ Adam de Orleton, 1317—1327.

² ? W. de Geynsburh, W. Reynald, or W. de Maydestone. The matter of the letter points to Reynald as the writer.

³ John de Wyke, 1301—1317.

⁴ William de Geynsburh, 1302—1307.

⁵ Cirencester.

⁶ Rendcombe.

15*b*. Letter of the Prior to King Edward asserting that certain laymen took possession of the Parish Church of W. in the diocese of W., by force of arms, preventing the Prior from doing his office.

Letter of the same to the King desiring to hand over W. de B. to the civil authority. A fortnight and more ago he was warned he had incurred the greater excommunication for his offence and contumacy, but with hardened heart he despises the intimation; wherefore the Prior begs the King will coerce the malice of the said William by the civil power of the land.

A power of attorney to J. de B. authorizing him to act on the Prior's behalf with regard to the [court?] of Worcester, the manors of A. B. C. and D., and the hundred of . . .

16. Certificate that J. de B., bearer hereof, is bearer of the Prior's letters to the Pope.

Licence to N. de A., our parishioner, whose zeal for God and the Catholic Church is well known, to have a chapel in his house at O.
(The remainder of this page is illegible.)

17. Letter of W.¹, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, to his friend the Prior of Worcester.

17*b*. Letter from Luke, cardinal deacon of St. Mary in Via Lata², to the Prior of Worcester, concerning a certain J. R., son of Sir H. R., knight, deacon of the diocese of Lincoln (?), formerly Rector of the church of T., despoiled of all the fruits of his benefice by the war of the Scots, asking the Prior to provide him with necessaries till his affairs can be arranged.

Another letter illegible.

18. A third letter, concluding on fo. 18, from W., bishop of Worcester, announcing his intended visitation and summoning the (?) Prior and Convent to appear before him on the morrow of St. Katharine.

18*b*. Letters of Credentials for the bearers thereof.

Letter to P., prior, &c., from W.³, minister of the Friars Minors in England, begging their charitable reception of the bearer, a learned man of good discipline.

¹ ? Walter de Langton, 1296—1322.

² Lucas de Flisco, Cardinal since 1298, sent to England by John XXII. to mediate

in the Scottish war, together with Cardinal Gauselin (p. 25).

³ Wm. de Geynsburh, Minister Provincial, 1285. See n. 1, p. 19.

19. Letter headed. *Litera de Abbate ad priorem pro consuetudine et constitutionibus reassumendis.*

From W., abbot of Westminster, to the Prior and Convent of Worcester. *Quia in vestro monasterio virum providum ydoneum et scientem consuevistis eligere, qui officium sacram scripturam legendi valuit exercere necdum in vestra ecclesia hoc idem per electionem credimus usitatum verum in singulis cathedralibus ecclesiis per sanctorum patrum Romanorum Pontificum constitutiones expresse statutum et in eisdem quampluribus observatum reperimus ut est moris vos tamen in vestro monasterio ut fide dignorum relatu didicimus ab huius ordinacione tam gratuita per biennium iam cessastis in ecclesie vestre prejudicium status vestri denigracionem nec non secularium et regularium dispendium, in tantum quod rerum amissarum compensacio recuperacionis beneficium non comparitur nec est. Volentes igitur maliciis et infamiis popularibus de vestro monasterio causis prescriptis oblocutis in quantum possumus obviare, vobis omnibus et singulis consulendo mandamus quatinus consuetudinem potius constitutionem solemnpnem et venerandam studeatis revocare certam personam eligentes qui sacram scripturam legat et verbum divinum predicet prout temporibus assuetum fuerat continuari, ne loci eiusdem dyocesanus manus suas apponere cogatur adiutrices ordinisque nostri secreta in suo revelentur adventu exclusis nostris generalis capituli visitatoribus quod nollemus.*

W., abbot of R., to the Prior of Worcester, thanking him for kindly respiting the exaction or demand of the fealty owed by the writer.

W., abbot of Westminster, to the Prior and Convent of Worcester. *Capitulo generali ordinis sancti B. Cantuariensis provincie presidens salutem in eo per quem singula disponuntur. In festo translacionis beati Regis Edwardi proxime preteriti ad Westmonasterium, Frater J. de D. . . . ssit nos quid faceret consulendum. Cui in studio Oxon. cum ceteris fratribus usque proximum Captitulum consuluimus ut maneret vel ad Glouc. si graciam de A. et C. ¹ crederet invenire, sed quia per vestros apices intelliximus vos ignorare locum ubi poterit reperiri, promissam sibi pecuniam Priori Oxon. vel Glouc. expedire credimus ut solvatis ne vobis quod absit pro defectu pecunie non solute quod vagus aut profugus deveniret inpingatur.*

19b. Letter of W., president and . . . of the Chapter-General of the Benedictine Order in the Province of Canterbury, to the Prior and Convent of Worcester concerning Brother J. de D., sometime of their church, who was presented to the Priory of Little Malvern by G., bishop

¹ Abbate et Conventu.

of Worcester. He states that the Prior of Worcester refuses to admit him, and the President asks for five marks for him that he may pursue his studies either at Oxford or in some religious house until the Chapter-General be held next year in the monastery of St. Albans.

Inserted is the beginning or ending of a letter of Walter de Wynforton, monk of Worcester.

Letter of Luke de W. to the Prior and Convent of Worcester, asking for due delivery of the portion to J. de B. valettus of our Lord the King whom he commends in accordance with Royal letters.

20. Letter of W., bishop of Worcester, to the prior and convent of that place:—"Cupientes per Sacrarum litterarum studium et doctrinam tam Dei honorem quam nostre profectum ecclesie dilatari, promptitudinem vestram qua idem una vobiscum affectare tenemini requirimus attentius et rogamus quatinus dilectum nobis in Christo fratrem R. de C. quem hactenus didicimus tam in spirituali studio quam morum honestate laudabiliter profecisse non permitatis ab occupatione tam fructifera quomodolibet impediri quin potius ipsum ad locum studii remittentes procuretis quatenus in vobis est quod bene cepit exitu perfici meliore: nec huic petitioni nostre contraire velit. Sciatisque quod nunc verbis petimus parati sumus etiam factis cum oportum fuerit promovere. Semper in Domino valeatis."

Letter of the Prior of Worcester to N.¹, abbot of R., asking him to refrain from distraining for fealty due from the priory to the Abbot in T.; the Prior cannot come himself having only recently been appointed. If the Abbot cannot wait until the writer can come in person, he begs him to send someone to receive fealty at the expense of the priory.

Letter of W.², abbot of Westminster, to the Prior of Worcester, asking him to grant the Chapel of Dayllesford, of which he believes the Prior is patron by lapse of time, to Sir W. de E., chaplain.

206. Letter of the Prior and Chapter to J. de D.³, treasurer of the Wardrobe of the King, asking for the preferment of Master J. R. de L., King's clerk, to the Rectory of D. in the room of Sir W. de D., who is willing to resign in his favour.

¹ Nicholas de Quappelode, 1305—1327, Abbot of Reading.

³ John de Drokensford, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 1315.

² ? William Curtlyngton, 1315—1333.

Suo S. ¹ predilecto, suus in omnibus G. ² cum Dei benedictione intimam caritatem. Ad vitandum sumptus inutilium hospitem in hoc instanti festo Nativitatis beate Marie Virginis apud vestrum prioratum Wygorniensem et ut per vestram presentiam nostra solempnitas dicti festi in nostri solatium honoretur, vos rogamus ex corde quatinus vobis apud in dicto solempni beate Virginis pretermisissis aliis singulis comitivam velitis afferre ubi etiam super pluribus status regni possumus conferre que scribere forsitan non liceret. Bene valete.

Letter of W. ³, abbot of Westminster, to J. ⁴, prior of Worcester :—Nuper vobis meminimus scripsisse consulendo non movendo auctoritate aliqua presidentie Capituli generalis in hac parte quod lectio sacre pagine, dummodo ad illam de vestris haberetis ydoneos in ecclesia vestra cathedrali sicut nunc moris est in similibus ecclesiis regni non vacaret, set quia iam comperimus per fide dignos quod illud quod pro bono communi et honore vestro consulebamus, iam tendit ad noxam, fertur enim quod pretextu huius rei unum de studentibus vestris Oxonie de quo firmiter speratur quod proficiet et in brevi aliquem actum scholasticum vobis et communitati magis honorificum exercebit intenditis domi revocare, quod absit, imo ut dicitur iam revocastis: quocirca vos attente requirimus et hortamur quatinus pretextu illius consilii nostri seu alterius, quod non optamus, conficti vel exquisiti impedimenti predictum studentem vestrum a profectu suo in scolis quem communem reputamus non revocetis, set quod bene cepistis erga eum in hac parte promovere velitis si placet nostris precibus intervenientibus et amore. Expedicius enim iudicamus quod ad tempus vacet lectio vestra predicta, si id omnino oporteat fieri in qua quasi privata utilitas vertitur quam impediatur illud per quod augmentatur et magis proficit bonum commune. Valeat in Christo sacra congregatio vestra per tempora longa.

21. Letter of G. ⁵, abbot of St. Peter de Burgh, to the Prior of Worcester in favour of B. de B., chaplain, presented to Whitchurch (ecclesiam albi monasterii) ⁶.

Letter of S. ⁷, bishop of Sarum, to the Prior, touching the leave of absence, granted at his request, to P. de P., from the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, upon urgent business of the Priory.

¹ Simon de Wyre, prior, 1296—1301.

² Godfrey Giffard, Bishop of Worcester, 1268—1302.

³ ? William Curtlyngton, 1315—1333.

⁴ John de Wyke.

⁵ Godfrey de Croyland, 1299—1321.

⁶ Whitchurch in Shropshire.

⁷ Simon of Ghent, 1297—1315.

Reverende dignitatis ac religioso viro et domino, J.¹ priori ecclesie Wygorniensis. J.² permissione Divina ecclesie Llandavensis minister, salutem et sincere caritatis amplexum. Ad Dei et ecclesie vestre honorem parati erimus laborem assumere et facere quem rogastis sicut alias diximas viva voce, si absque temeritatis nota fieri valeat et in nullius preiudicium cedere reputetur. Primum dicimus quia auctoritatem et potestatem vestram ad invitandum Episcopos pro episcopalibus exercendis in sola cedula vidimus non signata et ex nomine Prioris et Capituli Wygorniensis, in quorum favorem sonare videtur, conscripta; secundum dicimus pro electione quam tunc temporis estis ut creditur habituri, qui spe concepta de gradus episcopalis adeptione vicina intromittenti de huius [sic] in vestra dyocesi posset multorum arbitrio indignari, et contra talem forsitan provocari: hec igitur tanquam nobis incongrua vitare volentes precibus vestris absolute adquiescere non audemus, quousque hiis qui nos retrahunt rationabiliter satisfiat: si super hiis quicquam rescribere libeat, tempestive id fiat, quia ad loca remotiora a vobis dirigimus gressus nostros. Conservet altissimus statum vestrum in prosperitate felici. Datum apud Lantelon Cressenny³ xiii Kalendas Aprilis.

21b. Letter to R.⁴ bishop of Bath and Wells, from the Prior, concerning Roger de la Lee, in whose behalf the Prior has received the Bishop's recommendation. Immediately afterwards the Church of St. Martin, Worcester, became vacant, worth 10 marks a year or less. The Prior is ready to give him this Church, and a better as soon as he can consistently with his duty to two of his own clerks, or else a pension of 40s. a year.

Domino et amico reverendo domino J. Dei gratia priori Wygorniensis W.⁵ eiusdem Dei permissione divina Abbas R. salutem et fraterne dilectionis semper in Domino continuum incrementum. Habet in vobis fraterna locum dilectio. Dum ea que nobis citra vestrum incommodum esse poterunt et vobis et pro tempore fructuosa libenti animo persequimini et mancipatis effectum ut rogatur. Illud vobis inspirat ille divinitus, qui vos implere vult Monachum cuius estis obsequio mancipati, illud vos effecit facere, qui vult excludi versucias et ea diligi que sunt pacis: potuisset equidem aliquorum ceca presumptio vos ad durius excitasse, valuisset etiam huiusmodi seculi parata malicia obiecisse repagulum et citra conscientie bonum induxisse, quod vobis et nobis fuisset furtum postmodum

¹ John de Wyke, 1301—1317.

² John de Monmouth, 1297—1323.

³ Probably Llantillio, near Abergavenny. Among the charters given in the Monasticon (s.n. Llandaff) is one of great an-

tiquity bestowing 'Lann Teliau Cressinych' on the see.

⁴ Ralph de Shrewsbury, 1329—1344.

⁵ William de Sutton, abbot of Reading, 1290—1305.

nimis grave. Benedictus itaque Deus de cuius venit munere ut in diversis corporibus sit cor unum, quod hec et illa cessabunt vestris et nostris temporibus diffugiis et angariis per vestram prudentiam et devotionem nostram, quam semper optulimus, religatis; verum, ne ingratitude arguamur, dilectioni vestre referimus ex intimo multas grates, Adam de S. quem misistis, virum utique providum fidelem et discretum dominumque suum et ejus honorem per omnia diligentem multi [*sic*] firmiter commendantes. Bene semper valeatis.

22. Letter of Fr. W. ¹, minister of the Friars Minors in England, to P. ², prior of Worcester:—Cum salute utriusque hominis spiritum consilii salutaris; urget me contracta familiaritas que pacis sunt commoda forsan et honoris vestre suggerere sanctitati. Mecum igitur pater advertitis sicut credo quod ad hoc quia nostra privilegia remaneant illibata oportet finaliter funus ³ fratribus restituere, quod tam contra voluntatem defuncti quam in lesionem privilegiorum nostrorum temere abstulistis, teneat enim certitudinaliter vestra prudentia quod quamvis ego dissimulare curarem ob vestram reverenciam in hac parte ordo tamen in diversis mundi partibus audito casu qui tangit communem statum ipsius ordinis nollet aliquialiter conniventibus oculis pertransire. Rogo ergo reverentiam vestram propter Dominum et si expedire videbitur quatinus reddatis sine ulteriori strepitu dictum funus. Hoc scribo sincere affectioni vestre secretus et sicut credo vobis esse consultius Deo teste. Michi enim non incumbet labor maioris oneris nisi tantum duos fratres ad Curiam Romanam si necesse fuerit cum obediencialibus destinare. Quid vero fratres ibi poterunt cum astris illis matutinis facere forsitan audivistis. Det vobis Deus facere quod vobis cedet magis in commodum et honorem. Valeat vestra sanctitas in Christo et in Virgine sua matre.

Letter of W., bishop of Worcester, to the Prior and Chapter, announcing his Visitation of the Monastery, and ordering them to appear before him in the Cathedral on Thursday after St. Matthew. Dated at Hampton the 3rd Nones of September.

22b. Letter to the Prior of Worcester from W. Burdon ⁴, archdeacon of Gloucester, concerning the penance of John de W. of the parish of D., who was living with the sister of his deceased wife Margery, "despising the natural bond and the command of God, having four children by her." He

¹ Wm. de Geysburh, Provincial Minister since 1285, afterwards himself Bp. of Worcester.

² Philip de Aubyn, 1287—1296.

³ Funus = *the corpse*, probably of one Poche, a citizen of Worcester, who had wished to be buried with the Franciscans;

but the body had been carried away by order of the Sacrist and interred in the Cathedral yard. Ultimately it was recovered by the Friars. See Dr. Thomas' *Account of the Bishops*, p. 146. The date is 1290.

⁴ Walter de Burdon, 1295—1307.

is to repair barefoot to the mother church of the diocese, and having confessed the crime in full chapter is to seek absolution, offering three pounds of wax, one at the altar of the Blessed Virgin, the rest at the altars of SS. Oswald and Wulstan, whose relics repose in the said church. Dated Worcester, 11 Kalends of October, 1306.

23. Venerabilibus et discretis viris amicis nostris karissimis dominis Priori et Conventui Ecclesie Wigorniensis, Arnaldus miseratione divina Sancte Marie in porticu dyaconus Cardinalis ¹ salutem et sincere dilectionis affectum. Eam gerimus de sinceritate vestra fudiciam [*sic*] ut preces nostras quas vobis ex corde porrigimus in exaudicionis gratiam liberaliter admittatis. Sane cum dilectus noster J. de la M. clericus cupiat in ecclesia vestra sub regulari habitu virtutum Domino perpetuo famulari, discretionem vestram omni qua possumus affectione rogamus quatinus J. ipsum quem propter sui nobilitatem generis aliaque suorum laudabilia virtutum dona, quibus iuvari dinoscimus favore prosequamini benivolentie specialis habentes nostri amoris intuitu favorabiliter commendatum, ac ipsum in suo laudabili proposito confoventes. Placeat vos (*sic*) eum in vestrum et ecclesie vestre monachum libenter recipere atque fratrem et sincera eundem in Domino caritate tractare, scientes quod receptionem ipsius cum actione graciaram multimoda gratam habebimus plurimum et acceptam ad ea exinde nos animabitis promptiores vel propinquiores que discretis cognoscemus affectibus complacitura. Presertim cum monasterium vestrum ut intelleximus ex receptione dicti J. non debeat se reputare gravatum. Data Avinione, etc.

Venerande religionis viris dominis et amicis si placet carissimis dominis J. ² Priori et conventui Ecclesie Wigorniensis suus devotus presbyter Adam de Orleton Canonicus Herf' domini Pape Capellanus et eiusdem sacri palatii causarum auditor cum suplici recommendatione sui quicquid potest obsequii reverencie et honoris. Quoniam secundum apostolum qui spiritu Dei aguntur vere sunt liberi et ideo non artantur lege: comune illorum propositum tanquam a Deo specialiter acceptatum, benignis favoribus convenit promovere, hinc est quod carum mihi in Christo J. de la Mare clericum exhibitorem presentium qui sub habitu regulari vehementer desiderat in vestro monasterio Altissimo deservire caritati vestre quantum valet mea suplex humilitas recommendat vestram benignitatem omni quo possum affectu devote requirens quatinus

¹ Arnald de Pelagrua, Cardinal 1305—1321, Clement V.'s warlike Legate in Italy. He writes, it must be observed, from Avignon, no doubt at the request of Adam de Orleton (a kindred spirit); and he must be distinguished from two other Cardinals

Arnald belonging to the same period, viz. Arnald Novelli, Card. of St. Prisca, and Arnald d'Aux, Bp. of Poitiers, Card. Bp. of Albano, who were associated together on a mission to England about 1312.

² John de Wyke, 1301—1317.

eundem J., cui mores generisque nobilitas qua pollere dinoscitur ac alia laudabilia sue iuventutis auspicia suffragantur, in vestrum velitis recipere monachum et confratrem, ut preter divine retributionis premium exinde quod poteritis habundantius promereri, multos eiusdem J. speciales amicos reddatis vestri monasterii utilitatibus promptius obligatos. Ego quidem totus vester in Christo beneficiorum a vestra munificentia perceptorum nequaquam oblitus, me ipsum et omnia michi commissa vestris gratis affectibus offero et expono oracionum vestrarum suffragia humiliter postulando, paratus semper quibuscunque possum temporalibus et spiritualibus vicem rependere vestre laudabili bonitati ad accepte Deo religionis augmentum. In omni prosperitate vos conservet Altissimus et vobis adaugiat donum gracie salutaris. Data Avinione ij die mensis Marci.

23^b. Letter of W. ¹, bishop of Worcester, to the Prior. He has heard with regret of the death of Master C. de P., rector of the church of H. ², and desires that benefice for Master G. de K., his clerk. Given at B.

Letter to the Prior and Convent of Worcester from Walter de B., archdeacon of Gloucester, asking them to confer a benefice upon Master C. de P., whose welfare the writer has much at heart, as he has explained verbally to Sir J. de B.

24. W. ³ in Christo patri domino Dei gratia Priori Wygorniensi frater W. prior E. et eiusdem loci conventus erumpnosas seculi tristitias mansuras letitias sine fine. Dominus ex adverso prospiciens abstulit e medio patrem ⁴ nostrum sub cuius remigio tuti vehebamur, quod vobis dolentes nunciamus. Quapropter paternitatem vestram exoramus quatinus dolori nostro compatientes hac instanti die Martis videlicet die Sancti Bartholomei apostoli ipsius exequiis caritatis intuitu vestram dignemini presentiam exhibere, ad ipsius anime levamen et refrigerationem et nostri qualemcunque consolationem. Ad profectum continuum vos conseruet pietas salvatoris. Scripta Evesham etc.

Letter of J. ⁵, prior of Worcester, to W. ⁶, archbishop of Canterbury, introducing J. de S., one of his monks, whom he sends with a message.

Letter of the Abbot of Westminster to J., prior of Worcester, and to the Convent:—Exposuit nobis Magister Ricardus de D. clericus quod super eius conversatione et statu vobis per nos certis de causis certificari placeret.

¹ Walter de Maydestone, 1313—1317.

² Clement de Paston, rector of Herforton (Harvington), 1316—1317.

³ Wulstan de Bransford, 1317—1339.

⁴ ? John de Brockhampton, Abbot of Evesham, d. 18 Aug., 1317 or 1318.

⁵ John de Wyke, 1301—1317.

⁶ Walter Raynald, 1313—1327.

Et quia illud absque difficultate concedi quod concedentem non onerat et prodesse poterit postulanti ratio postulat pietatis, per fidedignos quesivimus de premissis per quorum laudabile testimonium, et etiam quedam que Magister J. de S. Juris Civilis professor de eodem nobis exposuit aliquando dedimus eum liberum et legitimum existere, et etiam conversationis honeste quod et fecimus pro eo quod nos sicut nec vos credimus de conversatione plurimum cogitare de quibus curare imposterum non putamus. Hoc tamen adicientes et pro certo solempnes clerici de scolis per nos redeuntes eundem multipliciter et sepius commendarunt. Et nos quatenus audemus vobis humiliter supplicamus quatinus in sua petitione nostri causa gratiam prestare placeat benignam et favorem. Valeat vestra dominacio per tempora longiora.

24*b*. Letter of R. de K., chaplain and almoner of the King, to the Prior, asking for a pension of 100 shillings for W. de D., chaplain, until he can provide him with a competent ecclesiastical benefice.

Letter of Simon ¹, abbot of R., to the Prior and Convent, rejoicing that an election is to be held in the church of Worcester, and hoping that this time it will be from among their own body. The writer sends R. de C. in answer to the summons, whom he begs may be released as soon as the election is over, for he was very unwilling to take upon himself the trouble of the journey.

25. Letter of W. de B. ², archdeacon of Gloucester, to the Prior, asking for a benefice for C. Brother J. de St. B. ³, when he came to London, told the writer that the Prior would provide for C., at the writer's request, as soon as an opportunity should offer.

Letter of W. ⁴, bishop of Bath and Wells, to J. ⁵, prior of Worcester, doing duty as official and administering the Spiritualities by the authority of the Court of Canterbury, thanking him for presenting Master T. de H., his nephew, to the church of P. ⁶, and begging him to admit the said T. now that the objections raised by R. de C. ⁷, archdeacon of T., incumbent actually in possession of that church, are withdrawn.

25*b*. Letters testimonial from R. ⁸, minister of the church of Hereford, to J. ⁹, prior of Worcester, in favour of N. C., rector of the Church of O.

¹ ? for Nicholas (de Quappelode), Abbot of Reading, 1305—1327.

² Walter de Burdon, 1295—1307.

³ ? John de St. Briavels.

⁴ Walter Hasselghagh, 1302—1309.

⁵ John de Wyke, 1301—1317.

⁶ Pucklechurch.

⁷ ? Roger de Charlton, archdeacon of Taunton.

⁸ Richard de Swinfield, 1283—1309.

⁹ John de Wyke, 1301—1317.

Letter of W. ¹, bishop of Worcester. R. de B., their fellow monk, has shewn the Bishop that the Priory may suffer damage if they present his clerk, Master G. de K., to the church of H., in regard to the church to which they have already presented him. He advises that G. de K. should resign the first church. The Bishop himself will be responsible for any pension involved.

Letter of E. ², abbot of St. Augustine's, B[ristol], commending to J., the Prior of Worcester, Master W. de L., who brings a verbal message from the Abbot.

26. Venerande Religionis viro domino Cellerario Wigorniensi frater J. ³ divina sufferencia Abbas de H. ⁴ salutem ab omnibus desideratam cum sincere caritatis augmento. Cum primum sit testimonium perhibere veritati ne in tanta eius oppressio locum tribuat suspitioni daturque nobis intelligi quod Robertum dictum le P. quondam prepositum de S. non modicum infestatis et ad huc infestare non desistitis in presenti, eo quod sibi imponitur quandam liberationem ad terminum vite in Abbatia de H. emissa vestra sciat fraternitas predilecta quod nunquam de dicta liberatione nobis seu alicui de Collegio nostro per ipsum sive per aliquam interpositam personam mencio habebatur, sive interlocutio qualiscunque sicut manifestius probari poterit per quamcunque probacionem decreveritis in hac parte. Nostris propterea precibus et amore cessare dignetur manus vestra contra dictum R. fidem si placet presentium tenori adhibentes excusatoriam. In omnium salvatore diu valeatis per tempora diuturna.

Letter of J. ⁵, abbot of Evesham, to the Prior, recommending him to admit R. de P., clerk, the bearer.

26b. Letter to the Prior and Convent from Brother T. ⁶, prior of K. ⁷, and the convent of that place. The Church of B. ⁸, formerly appropriate to the Writers, as the instruments they send testify, can be restored as before, if the Priory of Worcester consent.

Letter of W. ⁹, bishop of Worcester, to the Prior, asking him to meet him at A. on Monday next and not to fail, lest damage and scandal arise. Dated at A. ¹⁰

¹ William de Geysburh, 1305—1309.

² Edmund Knowle, 1306—1332.

³ John of Gloucester, 1305.

⁴ Hales, Co. Gloucester. John de Gloucester, circa 1305—1333.

⁵ John de Brokehampton, 1281—1316.

⁶ Thomas de Warmington, 1312—1345.

⁷ Kenilworth.

⁸ Bromesgrove.

⁹ William de Geysburh, 1305—1309.

¹⁰ Alvechurch?

Letter from the Prior and Chapter to Master J. de E., rector of the church of T.¹, wondering why he has suspended the Prior and Convent from entrance into his church. If he does not make ample amends for such an insult, in which case no more will be said, the Prior will proceed to his legal remedy.

Letter of W.², bishop of Worcester, to the Prior informing him that he safely reached London on the second Sunday in Lent. His horses have suffered so much on the journey, that he begs the Prior to lend him at anyrate one pack-horse to bring down some harness. Of the state of the Court, which is extraordinary, he will say nothing till they meet except that on the morrow of the Purification the legate of the Pope left L. and hurried secretly to D.³

27. Letter of W.⁴, bishop of Worcester, to the Prior. He is astounded to hear that the appropriation of a certain church to the Priory by one of his predecessors has been revoked by the Archbishop of Canterbury, without any notice that the matter was in question having been given to the writer. He thinks the best way will be to present to that church, the collation to which now comes into his hands by lapse of time, someone agreeable both to himself and the Prior. He therefore begs the Prior to permit the collation of his clerk, which he has made, and suffer him to obtain possession in peace.

Letter to the Prior from the Abbot of St. A., B.⁵, commending to him Master R. de R., their clerk, who is coming to Worcester to transact certain business with them.

Letter of the Bishop to J.⁶, prior of Worcester. In order to pay a large sum of money in a short time, the Bishop requires the Prior to give to the bearer the £20 still remaining due from Sir H., the King's Almoner, if the Prior has the sum by him.

27*b*. Letter from W. de M. to the Prior and Convent, asking them to have letters patent executed as soon as possible, under the seal of their house, concerning the pension which Sir W. de D., the King's chaplain, says they propose to grant him until they can provide him with an ecclesiastical benefice.

¹ Possibly John de Ebroycis (Devereux), rector of Tredington, afterwards Archdeacon of Gloucester. See Reg. Sede Vacante, fol. 4.

² William de Geynsburh, 1305—1309.

³ Dover.

⁴ Walter Raynald, 1302—1313.

⁵ St. Augustine's, Bristol.

⁶ John de Wyke, 1301—1317.

Letter of W.¹, archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior and Convent saying that Gauselin, cardinal-priest of SS. Marcellinus and Peter, and Vice-Chancellor of the Holy Roman Church², has collated R. de D., clerk of S. in the diocese of Worcester, to the living vacated by W. de D., the last rector, his brother, under power specially granted him by the Pope. They are to cause him to be inducted as soon as possible and to certify the Cardinal as soon as it has been done. Dated at Lambeth, 14 Cal. Oct.

28. Letter from T. de C., dean of Stafford, to the Prior and Convent, asking them to confirm the sale of a plot of land by W., formerly Bishop of Worcester, to Ke [?] de J., the Dean's servant.

Letter from an unnamed writer asking for the prayers of the Priory, in 20 masses or more, for the soul of his father, at whose burial the Prior was present.

Letter from J.³, abbot of St. Peter of Gloucester, to J.⁴, prior of Worcester, announcing the arrival of Dan J. de H., a monk of Worcester whom, in accordance with the Prior's wish, the Abbot has admitted to his own house, to live while there according to the rule of St. Benedict. He will soon send him further news of his conduct and penitence.

28^b. Letter to the Prior and Convent from W. de B. and J. de S., clerks, announcing the death of G.⁵ their dear lord, and asking them to receive the corpse to be buried on Sunday after the Feast of Purification. Dated Alvechurch, 6 Kal. Feb., 1301.

Letter of R. J., clerk, to the Prior of Worcester. It has pleased the authorities of Oxford and masters of the University to appoint that on Monday next after the Translation of St. Thomas, M., I shall be decorated with the girdle of Master in Decrees. I beg you, if possible, to give the pleasure and comfort of your presence to the numbers who will meet there on that occasion. By so doing you will oblige my brother, Sir William Inge, and myself to do whatever you may enjoin.

29. Letter to the Prior of Worcester from his colleague and brother of the church of H., begging him to license S. de W. and W. de B., brethren of the writer's house, in honour of their patron, St. John the Evangelist.

¹ Walter Raynald, 1313—1328.

² See n. 2, p. 14.

³ John Thoky, 1306—1328.

⁴ John de Wyke, 1301—1317.

⁵ Godfrey Giffard, bishop, 1268—1301.

Letter from R. ¹, bishop of Hereford, commending J. de D. ² who some-time since was forced by duty to undertake the office of Prior of Little Malvern. He has been relieved therefrom, and desires to be received as a monk at Worcester.

Mandate of G. ³, bishop of Worcester, to the Prior and Convent of that place, in favour of J. de D., whom the Bishop heretofore appointed Prior of Little Malvern, for the reform of the discipline of that house, belonging to the same order as the Priory of Worcester, and being of the Bishop's patronage. The Bishop now relieves him of this duty, and he desires to return to Worcester.

29*b*. Bond of R. de W., lord of C. in the county of O., to the Prior and Convent of Worcester in £150 a year to be paid quarterly, beginning at the Feast of St. Andrew, 1320.

Letter of J. ⁴, prior of the Cathedral Church of Worcester, and the chapter of the said place, to Henry ⁵, prior of Christ Church, Canterbury. Owing to the election of Walter, bishop of Worcester, to the See of Canterbury, both Sees being vacant difficulties may arise, unless due provision is made. The writers request the commission for them to act *sede vacante* in accordance with an arrangement upon the subject made between Boniface, formerly archbishop, and themselves in like circumstance; they and J. de St. Briavel, a brother of their house, to receive the commission as their proctor. Dated in the Chapter House of Worcester, 8 Kalends of December.

[See Reg. Sede Vacante, fol. 80.]

30. Reply of the said Henry, and the Chapter of Christ Church, Canterbury, granting the commission. Dated in their Chapter House on the Feast of St. Katherine.

[Ibid., fol. 80.]

Mandate of the Prior, acting *sede vacante*, to the Archdeacon, to summon the clergy to his visitation in the cathedral on Saturday after the Feast of

¹ Richard de Swinfield, 1283—1317.

² John de Dumbleton, 1299—1302.

³ Godfrey Giffard, 1268—1301.

⁴ John de Wyke, 1301—1317.

⁵ Henry de Eastry, 1285—1322. This letter was written after the election of Walter Raynald to Canterbury, October, 1313. See Reg. Sede Vacante, fol. 80.

St. Nicholas, when he will also decide causes pending in the Consistory Court, &c. Dated 5 Kalends December, 1313.

[See Reg. Sede Vacante, fol. 80.]

30*b*. Mandate of the Prior, acting *sede vacante*, to Master Benedict de Pastone, rector of the church of Blockeleye, late Official. The seal of the Official of Worcester, the registers, rolls and chests of the consistory of the whole diocese of Worcester, have customarily been delivered to the Prior, as having special power and jurisdiction, by the Official or commissaries of the bishops when the See became vacant. The See has been vacant since the 21st of October last, and Master Benedict has not delivered up the above said though warned so to do in a friendly way. They are hereby required to be delivered up at Worcester before the Sunday next after St. Andrew's Day.

[Ibid., fol. 80*d*.]

31. Mandate of the Prior, appointing Master Richard de Alncestre, his clerk, to hear causes, &c., in the Consistory Court, and to correct defaults.

[Ibid., fol. 81.]

Mandate of the Prior, acting *sede vacante*, to the Dean of Worcester, to summon his clergy to a Visitation to be held in the Cathedral on Sunday next after the Feast of St. Nicholas.

[Ibid., fol. 82.]

Certificate of the Prior, acting *sede vacante*, of the purgation of J. de S., accused of adultery with M., wife of W. de S., his brother.

[Ibid., fol. 82*b*.]

31*b*. Certificate that the above-named J. de S., accused of adultery and incontinence with Joane, relict of J. de L., has undergone purgation.

[Ibid., fol. 82*b*.]

Certificate that J. de T., rector of the church of B., accused of adultery with A. de B., duly appeared before the Prior and received absolution. Dated 3 Ides of February.

[Ibid., fol. 82*b*.]

Certificate that W. de O., accused of fornication with A. de M., appeared on Monday, the Feast of St. Paul, and underwent correction. Dated as above.

[Ibid., fol. 82*b*.]

32. Letters of dispensation for Sir John de S., rector of the church of B., upon his confession of, and penance for, his adultery with X. de B., A. de G. and F. de L., unmarried women of his parish, whom he kept in his dwelling as concubines.

[Ibid., fol. 82*b*.]

Certificate of the purgation of John de Fecham, citizen of Worcester, by six rectors of churches of Worcester, and six trustworthy citizens. Certain malevolent persons had given out that he had been admitted to Holy Orders, namely the sub-diaconate, so that he was defamed among good and grave people, whereas he was never so admitted.

[Ibid., fol. 82*b*.]

32*b*. Certificate of the penance of Sir R. de B. and A. de S. for their adultery.

[Ibid., fol. 83.]

Letter of the Prior to the Official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester, directing him to make enquiry into the disposition of the goods of B. de C., deceased, formerly rector of D., by his executors, and to cite A. B. and C. D., the said executors, to appear before the Prior or his Commissaries. Also to make an announcement in all places, where the deceased was benefited, and in other places considered most suitable, that all his creditors, legatees, and other persons interested, may likewise attend, that justice may be done them.

33. Letter of the Prior to the Dean of Wych. The executors of R. de B. complain that certain sons of iniquity detain from them certain goods of the deceased, thus incurring the sentence of the greater excommunication given by the Holy Fathers in such case. The Dean is to have such excommunication publicly pronounced in all churches of his deanery.

Charge by Henry de la Lee and Richard de Alincestre, clerks and commissaries of the Prior, acting by authority of the Court of Canterbury, &c., to John de Feckenham, John Lony, Richard Schep, and Alina relict of John le Caretter, to make upon oath a faithful inventory of the goods of the said John le Caretter, and to swear faithfully to administer them.

Certificate by the Prior, acting by the authority, &c., of the administration of the goods of A. de B., clerk, and discharge of his executors.

33^b. Letters patent of Edward II. to the Keeper of the Spiritualities of the Bishopric of Worcester, *sede vacante*, presenting Henry de Ingelbi to the church of Cudburley, in the King's hands, by reason of the custody of the lands of the son and heir of Giles de Berkeley, who held of John Warland, an idiot in the King's keeping. Dated at Nottingham, 3 Oct. 1 [Edward II., 1307].

[Reg. Sede Vacante (where the name is given as Walraund), fol. 37.]

Writ by the Prior of Worcester, acting by authority, &c., to the Archdeacon of Gloucester or his official, to induct the said Henry de Ingelbi into the said church.

[Ibid., fol. 37^d.]

34. Writ as above, to the Archdeacon of Gloucester or his official, to induct Adam de C.¹, presented by the Abbot of Evesham, to the church of B.².

Writ from the same to the same for the induction of S. de C.³, priest, into the church of Salewarp, on the presentation of Sir G. de Bellocampo⁴, Earl of Warwick.

Presentation by J., prior of Worcester, and the Chapter of that house, of Master John de Walcote, to the church of Wulvardeleye. Dated in the Chapter House, Worcester, 1306.

Letters testimonial by J., prior of Worcester, by authority, &c., in favour of N. de W., clerk, native of the Diocese of Worcester.

Similar letters by the same in favour of W. de T.

34^b. Similar letters by the same in favour of Nicolas de F.⁵, whom he has known from boyhood. Dated Worcester, 1308.

Similar letters in favour of B. de C., son of N. de L., citizen of Worcester, clerk, whom the Prior has known from his boyhood.

Similar letters in favour of R. de B., clerk, son and heir of W. B., citizen of Worcester, and endowed by his father with 50s. yearly rents in Worcester, where he was born.

¹ Adam de Corthyngam.

⁴ Sir Guy de Beauchamp.

² Bradewell. See Reg. Sede Vacante, fol. 37d.

⁵ Nicholas de Frankeley. See Reg. Sede Vacante, fol. 39d.

³ Simon de Cadinton.

Certificate of John, prior of Worcester, by authority of the Court of Canterbury, &c., that he has instituted H. de J., clerk, at the presentation of King Edward, to the church of C.

Certificate of the Prior as above to John de B., subdeacon, instituting him to the church of N. at the presentation of King Edward.

Mandate to the Archdeacon of Gloucester by the same Prior, to induct H. de J., clerk, to the church of C. at the presentation of King Edward.

Special licence by the Prior, acting, &c., to A. de B., subdeacon, rector of the church of C., to devote himself to the study of Canon Law and Theology, without obligation to proceed to further orders, enjoying meanwhile the fruits of his church, provided he remain there in person.

Renewal to R. de M., subdeacon, rector of the church of S. in Worcester, for a further period of five years, of the dispensation granted him by W., bishop of Worcester, of blessed memory, long since, for leave of absence for study until Michaelmas, 1307, with license to farm out the church.

Form of leave of absence from a benefice for the purpose of study within the kingdom of England for one year.

35. Licence to R. de T., deacon, of the church of B. in the diocese of Worcester, to receive priest's orders from any Bishop in the province of Canterbury.

35*b*. Similar licence to E. de B., deacon of the same diocese.

Similar licence to Master J. de W., clerk, to receive further orders from any Apostolic Bishop.

Licence of absence for two years, for the purpose of study, to E. de B., subdeacon, rector of the church of A., if he place in his stead an adequate Chaplain.

36. Certificate by J., prior of Worcester, official and administrator of the Spiritualities, &c., of the ordination of T. de S. on Saturday, *quatuor temporum*, in the first week of Lent, 1313, by Gilbert¹, bishop of Enachdun.

¹ See Reg. Sede Vacante, fol. 86*d*.

Certificate that W. de S.¹, priest of the diocese of Worcester, received the order of subdeacon, *die sabbati quatuor temporum*, in the Vigil of Holy Trinity, 1292, at the hands of Godfrey², then Bishop of Worcester, and that Robert³, archbishop of Canterbury, ordained him deacon on the Vigil of Holy Trinity, 1301, at Cheddeworth.

Mandate of the Prior directed to the Official of the Archdeacon of Worcester. A. B. C., clerks, serving in the church of St. Mary of Worcester, were attacked in the High Street of that city, when going about their business. This violence and bloodshed and all partisans thereof are to be publicly denounced in every parish in Worcester⁴.

36*b*. Order to the Dean of Christianity of Gloucester to have sentence of greater excommunication pronounced in every church of his deanery against those whose names are not known, who defamed W. de P.⁵; inquiries are to be made as to their names, and if any are found guilty they are to be cited to appear in the great church of Worcester on Monday next after the Epiphany.

Certificate of the purgation of P. de B., accused by lay persons of theft and handed by the authorities to the ecclesiastical court. After a lengthy detention in prison and the making of proclamations in all churches and public places throughout the archdeaconry of Worcester, the compurgation took place on Tuesday after St. Nicolas, in the great church of St. Mary of Worcester.

37. Certificate to J. de B. of his purgation and of his restoration to reputation and goods.

Appointment of R. de T. to appear in the Roman Court as Proctor of the Prior and Chapter.

Similar appointment of P. de C.

37*b*. Appointment of Master T. de R., clerk, proctor for the Prior and Convent of Worcester, before any Judge, &c., whenever the Prior is not himself present.

¹ William de Stour.

⁴ Register Sede Vacante, fol. 40.

² Godfrey Giffard.

⁵ William de Plumtre. See Reg. Sede

³ Robert Winchelsey. See Reg. Sede Vacante, fol. 40.

Appointment by A. de B., clerk, of the diocese of L. (presented to the church of O., in the diocese of D., by the Prior and Convent of F.), of W. de B., clerk, to be his proctor. The seal of the Official of O. is appended at the writer's request.

38. Mandate of the Official of Worcester, *sede vacante*, to the Official of the Archdeacon of Worcester: T. de C., clerk, condemned to death in the lay court for theft and homicide, was, according to ecclesiastical privilege and the custom of the kingdom, delivered to the Bishop's prison at Worcester. By the testimony of trustworthy witnesses he appears to be innocent, and he is to be admitted to purgation in the Cathedral. The Archdeacon is to give due notice thereof in churches and public places throughout the archdeaconry in markets, county courts, and hundreds.

Appointment by K. de H., rector of the church of H. next W. in the Diocese of Worcester, of Master R. de L., T. de G. and W. de B., his proctors at the Roman Court.

38*b*. Appointment by J. B., proctor of the Prior and Chapter of Worcester, of T. de W. as his substitute, sealed with the seal of the Official of the Archdeacon of London.

Certificate by W. ¹ [bishop of Worcester], that Master J. de B., sequestrator within the bishopric, has accounted for his receipts, excepting the money derived from vacant benefices, from the time he was appointed until Michelmas 5 Edward II.

39. Receipt by the same for £30 received from the said sequestrator of the issues of the spirituality of the bishopric, by the hands of J. de R., the Bishop's clerk.

Certificate by Prior J. ² of the manumission of T. C. of T. by the hands of R. de A., with all his goods and chattels. Dated at O., Feast of St. John, 1300.

Mandate by the Prior, acting &c., to the Deans of Worcester and Poywyke, ordering them to excommunicate in all churches of the two deaneries, on Sundays and Festivals, with ringing of bells, and lighted candles, during the celebration of Mass, certain sons of iniquity, who have spread abroad false and slanderous charges against A. de B. of theft and

¹ Walter de Maydestone, 1313—1317.

² John de Wyke, 1301—1317.

other crimes; and to obtain their names. If any guilty persons are found, they are to be cited to the cathedral, at the next sitting of the court after the Feast of St. Edward the king, to answer the said A.

39^b. Letter of W. ¹, bishop of Worcester, to the Prior. By right of an ancient composition, the Bishop has the right of appointing one keeper of the shrine of St. Wulstan in the cathedral church, charged to render an account to the bishop of the issues thereof. He prays the Prior, who knows better the character of the brethren serving there to appoint such an one as shall be to the glory of God, an example to the people, and a help to the Bishop. Dated in London.

Letter of W. ², prior of Worcester, to T. ³, bishop of Worcester, commending R. de W., rector of the church of E., the bearer, who has the bishop's licence to study, for a licence for five years' residence abroad for that purpose.

Bond by the said Prior to W. de K. in 100 marks, to be paid at the Feast of St. Peter in Chains or St. Michael next, for the faithful payment of which the Prior binds himself, his church, his successors, and executors.

Bond by Richard, cook to G. ⁴, Earl of Warewyke, to the Prior and Convent in 5 marks, for a stack of peas and vetches in the court of Claverdon, bought by him. To pay the same at Worcester next Pentecost, without further delay. Dated at Worcester, 12 Kalends December.

Letter by J. de S. of D., promising that if W. de T. and L. de G. pay 100 marks of the 200 they stand bound to pay him at the house of D. at Michelmas next, he will give them a discharge for the whole sum. (French.)

40. Bond, dated at Worcester, 4 February, 15 Edward II. (1321-22), by W. de T. and L. de G. to J. de S. of P. [?] in 200 marks sterling, to be paid at the latter's house of G. at Michaelmas next.

40^b. 12 March, 15 Edward II. W. de B. to J. de A. "en dis et seet' marcs desterlings coronez p' vynes de ly acchate en W.", to be paid at the latter's house in B. before Holy Trinity next.

Notification by S. de E., rector of the church of S. in the diocese of Worcester, that he resigns the said church only in order to exchange cures with Sir S. de A., rector of the church of N. in the same Diocese.

¹ ? Walter de Maydestone, 1313—1317.

² Possibly in the vacancy before 1317.

³ Thomas Cobham, 1317—1327.

⁴ Guy de Beauchamp, 1298—1315.

Notification by the above said S. de A. and S. de E., that they obtained their said benefices by lawful presentation.

41. Letter of W. de Z.¹, Kt., to T.², bishop of Worcester, stating that S. de E., rector of the church of S., in the patronage of the Abbot and Convent of E., desires an exchange with S. de A., rector of the church of N., of which he is patron, and expressing his consent thereto.

Letter of S. de E. to the Bishop, placing his resignation in his hands to effect the exchange. Given under the seal of the Prior.

Letter of the same appointing Master R. de G. and J. C., clerks, his proctors. Sealed with his own seal and that of the Dean of Worcester.

41*b*. Letter of W. de D., perpetual vicar of the church of A., to T., bishop of Worcester, resigning his vicarage in order to exchange it for the church of St. Andrew, Worcester.

Protest by J. de F., chaplain of the church of St. Helen, and the chapel called Chernel in the city of Worcester, which were granted him by the late Bishop Godfrey, appealing therein for the protection of the Apostolic See and the Court of Canterbury, so that T., bishop of Worcester, should not suspend, interdict, excommunicate him therein.

Letter from J. Bloyon, official of the Bishop of Worcester, and his special commissary in this behalf, to the Dean of Wych. The Bishop has learnt from the Prior and Convent of Worcester, patrons of a certain chantry or hospital in Wych³, that Adam B., chaplain thereof, has dilapidated and consumed the buildings and goods belonging to the same. The said Adam is to be cited to appear in the cathedral church on Monday next after Holy Trinity.

42. Letter of Walter⁴, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, to the Abbot and Convent of Burton-upon-Trent. He hears by common report that their monastery is going to ruin, both as regards discipline and property. The bishop has moreover received letters from the King (who for this reason has appointed a keeper of the monastery), dated at Fulmere, 18th August last, not only exhorting but commanding the Bishop to provide some remedy. Being pressed with other business, especially that of the

¹ ? Walter de la Zouche.

² Thomas de Cobham, 1317—1328.

³ The Hospital of St. Mary in Droitwich,

of which the Prior and Convent of Worcester were patrons.

⁴ Walter de Langton, 1296—1322.

present Parliament, the Bishop cannot come in person. He commands them, under pain of the greater excommunication, to desist from all processes entered into contrary to the decree made at his last visitation, and to certify the Bishop what they shall do in consequence of these presents.

42*b*. Joint letter of J.¹ and J., abbots of O. and W., presidents of the Chapter General of the Benedictine Order in the Province of Canterbury. The congregation of monks of our Order studying at Oxford has lost their Master, by the death of Master P. de St., so that they are obliged to beg their ordinary lectures in other schools; to allow one of the brethren of your house, who has been an ornament to the University of Oxford, to resume the lectures there, we will help to cover the expenses with a grant from the common fund.

Letter of W.², archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior and Convent of Worcester. If they do not obey the King's commands their house runs great risk. They should beg their friends at court to assist in defending the matter now pending before the King, while they send up a prudent monk with letters representing their defencelessness. The Archbishop himself will attend to the matter through one of his own people, whom he is sending to court on the morrow of St. Matthew.

43. Letter of W.³, bishop of Worcester, to the Prior and Convent concerning certain reports that have come to his knowledge that the Priory consider he does not consult their interests sufficiently. He wonders greatly, for he has given no ground for such an idea; he commends to them Master Richard de C., his clerk, whom he is sending to explain.

Letter of the said Bishop to the same, desiring that all cause of friction between them should be smoothed away. He has heard from several people that brother J. de St. B., under pretext of the late dissension between the Bishop and the Priory, was removed from the sacristy of the church of Worcester against his will, but he asks their goodwill for S. de A. He is willing to do everything he can to remove occasion of discord, and will replace the said J. de St. B. in the said office by removing brother R. de C.⁴.

¹ John de Osenev, abbot of Osenev, 1317—1330.

² Walter Raynald, late bishop of Worcester.

³ Walter de Maydestone, 1313—1317.

⁴ For this dispute, see Vict. Co. Hist. Worc. ii. 101. The Bishop it appears had the right to appoint the sacrist.

43*b*. Letter of W. de B.¹, archdeacon of Gloucester, to the Prior and Convent. J. de St. B.², lately coming to London, has informed him of the Prior's favourable reception of his letter on behalf of the said J., and his promise to provide him with some benefice, when the badness of the times allow of it. He hopes the time may soon arrive from the goodwill which he hears the Earl of Lancaster³ bears them, and the kindness of the Archbishop of Canterbury⁴. Dated in London.

Letter to the Prior and Convent from R.⁵, minister of the monastery of St. Augustine in Canterbury. The Abbot hopes much from his previous experience of the kindness of their house. They need an instructor in place of their master and former brother John de St. German, a monk of Worcester, whom they desire on account of the clearness of his teaching and the uprightness of his life. He begs that the said Master John may be allowed to return to them if only for a time.

44. Letter of T.⁶, minister of the conventual church of Kenilworth, commending R. de K. and T. de H. whom he sends to transact certain business with the Prior.

Letter of J.⁷, prior of Worcester, to R.⁸, archbishop of Canterbury, asking his help and sympathy in serious and great trouble arising out of the King's unheard of exactions.

44*b*. Letter from W.⁹, bishop of Worcester, to the Prior of the cathedral church of Worcester, introducing the bearer (unnamed), and begging for him a favourable audience in order that a remedy may be found for the said church.

Letter of the Masters and Scholars of the University of Paris to the Prior and Convent of Worcester. The learned doctor, Master J. de St. G.¹⁰, who for a long while has adorned the college, shewing like a brilliant star without a blemish, is preparing to return to Worcester by the Prior's command. They beg that all the favour he so well deserves may be shewn him. Given at a general congregation at Paris.

¹ ? William de Berston, 1308—1317.

² John de St. Briavel, sacrist.

³ Thomas de Lancaster, 2nd Earl of Lancaster, grandson of Henry III., 1296—1322.

⁴ Walter Raynald, translated from Worcester, 1313.

⁵ Ralph Bourne, 1309—1334.

⁶ Thomas de Warmyngton, 1312.

⁷ John de la Wyke, 1301—1317.

⁸ Robert Winchelsea, 1294—1313.

⁹ ? Walter Raynald, 1308—1313.

¹⁰ ? John de St. German.

Letter of the Prior of Worcester to Walter, archbishop of Canterbury. The priory has learned from their brother, J. de S., of the Archbishop's kindness and purposed protection. Henceforth they will pray that He who plucked Peter from the sea and delivered Paul from shipwreck in the deep will suffer the Archbishop to bring his vessel safely to a haven of rest in these perilous times ¹.

45. Reverende discretionis viro, magistro W. de B., suus semper frater J. cum promptitudine complacendi. Vestre benevole dilectioni super acceptis beneficiis nedum nobis impensis set etiam nostris et maxime latori presentium in comitiva vestra de Parisiis redeunti collatis gratias quas possumus reddimus affectuosa[s] . . . beneplacita quatenus valemus prosequi cum effectu humiliterque supp . . . gratitudinis vestre semper gratiam experiri. Vester status crescat feliciter in eternum.

Letter to the Bishop of Bath and Wells, commending to him Master R. de W., clerk, and Sir A. de B., chaplain, whom the writer sends to explain matters truthfully to the Bishop and the King.

Frater J. ², permissione divina Cantuariensis minister humilis, totius Anglie primas, venerabili fratri domino G. ³ Dei gratia etc. Salutem et sinceram in Domino caritatem. Licet pacis et concordie federa amputato iurgiorum discidio et litium amfractibus circumscriptis prompto favore et iugibus mentis nostre studiis prosequi affectemus tamen ea divinitus abhorremus que pro pace hominis transitoria eam que ad Deum est perimunt pacem veram. Sane per ora loquentium immo pocius obloquentium fidedignis relatibus divulgato rumore vix credibili didicimus admirantes quod vos iurisdictionem que vobis etc. attribuitur exercenda etc. penitus remisistis, quod non absque iuris iniuria nostreque Cantuariensis ecclesie libertatis elusione ac etiam proprie professionis qua corporali prestito juramento astringi dinoscimini ecclesie memorate contemptu potuistis aliquatenus attemptare. Quocirca fraternitatem vestram puro desiderio requirimus et rogamus quatenus iuxta sibi datam a Deo prudentiam exactissima diligentia vel exacta cogitet et dicernat quid in permissis liceat secundum equitatem, quid expediat secundum utilitatem, et tertio quid deceat secundum canonicam honestatem ne frustra compositio in irritum valeat revocari presertim cum iuxta generales et canonicas sanctiones quod omnes tangit ab omnibus merito debeat approbari. Quid autem circa premissa egeritis vel facere

¹ At the foot of the page are some large letters in gothic text, probably merely a writing essay.

² John Peckham, 1279—1294.

³ Godfrey Giffard, 1268—1301.

intendatis nobis vestris litteris sigilli vestri munimine roboratis sine frustrorie excusationis diffugio ac prolixioris more dispendio rescribatis.

45^b. Reply to the above. G. has consulted the chief people of the diocese, and asks the Archbishop's advice that his action in his present difficulty, in view of the papal bull and the obedience due to the King in the diocese, may be supported by the authority of the Archbishop¹.

Religiosis Viris in Christi, predilectis Fratri J.² Wygorniensis Ecclesie Priori et sociis illius Collegio universo. Frater W.³ permissione divina eiusdem ecclesie minister gratiam paternam. Summus rerum artifex cuius operatio imperfectionem non patitur, sicut in materiali corpore, sic et in mistico, inter capud et membra tantam connexionem mirabili dispositione constituit, quod uno languente cetera patiantur, et membro suppremo bene disposito feliciter se habeat reliqua corporis armonia; cum ergo, karissime, nostra felicitas sicut et adversitas in vos amodo tanquam in membra necessario redundabit, doloris acculeos quibus affligimur vobis tanquam membris et filiis compassivis per caros familiares nostros exhibitores presentium duximus aperire universos coniunctim et singulos singillatim cum adiuratione rogantes et rogaminibus adiurantes, quatenus ostensa vobis nostre infirmitatis gravedine que absque subventionis vestre cauterio sanari non poterit, si ad eius curam velitis extendere digitos pietatis ut capitis extincto langore totum corpus unanima prosperitate letetur. Vos insuper omnes et singulos scire volumus pro constanti quod si per vestram industriam de instanti periculo poterimus erui cum honore vestras angustias nostras de cetero reputare proponimus, et eas iuxta possibilitatem quam Dominus ministrabit oportuno medicamine relevare. Valeat semper in Christo vestrum sacrum collegium cum successibus prosperis et felicibus incrementis. Datur etc.

46. Venerande religionis viro fratri karissimo et confidenti amico dompno J. Wygorniensis Ecclesie Priori, suus frater W. eiusdem ecclesie sacerdos indignus cum dilectione sincera quicquid est gracie et salutis. Hiis que sine incommodo differri non poterunt cautio est celerior adhibenda et in hiis que cor humanum magis exagitant ad confidentiorem amicum solet semper haberi recursus. Nostre siquidem paupertatis inediam ac sump-tuum gravitatem quam circa inronizationem nostram subire nos convenit

¹ The Archbishop to whom this is addressed is Robert Winchelsey, 1294—1313, so that it would seem that Peckham had died before Giffard had time to reply.

² John de Wyke, 1301—1317.

³ Walter Raynald.

vobis nuper et sacro vestro collegio per certos nuncios familiares nostros duximus exponenda. Credentes tunc sicut et non pro certo speramus nos tam graciosam subventionem et tam salubre consilium reperturos ut exinde communis honor ecclesie [auge]atur, fraterna dilectio nutriatur nostra relevetur inopia et cordis angustia mitigetur. Sane post conceptam tante consolationis materiam data est nobis ex parte vestra quedam responsio generalis ex qua nichil certum elicere novimus set quantum ad totius rei exitum . . . dos nos effecit et dubios plusquam ante, cum eiusmodi responsione nulla fuit qualitative aut quantitative determinata subventio. Ipsa sic indetérminata manente necesse haberemus de omnibus et singulis in utroque genere providere et de presenti saltem nulla nobis relevacio proveniret. Et quia, karissimi, terminus explendi negotii de vestro et nostro consilio pro communi utilitate prefixus multum approximatur, ut videtis, tempusque magnum iam preterit sub diliberatione modicum fructuosa, caritati vestre et fraternitati dilecte supplicamus ex medullis et votis intimis cordis nostri quatenus per latorem presentium absque dilatione majori nobis rescribatis aperte quantum et quale auxilium tam in rebus quam in pecunia pro tante necessitatis relevamine poterimus de gratia vestra certitudinaliter expectare. Nam durum esset nobis vel propter dilatam responsionem preoccupari nimis in provisionibus faciendis vel propter subventionis inedium tempus cum diliberatione prefixum cum nostra et vestra verecundia ulterius prorogare. Hec revera peticio non debet a domesticis quamvis forte insolita mirabilis vel extranea reputari. Cum a non nullis etiam forinsecis nobis minus astrictis urgente statu preterito et presenti honore pensato oporteat nos simile auxilium flagitare. Nec oportet ut quidam autumant ex hiis in quibus non est timor trepidare periculum affuturum, cum et hec que ex gratia mera perveniunt et in consequenciam trahi non possunt, etsi necesse fuerit tam vobis quam ecclesie nostre super hoc exhabundanti prospicere novimus remediis oportunis. Hanc autem supplicationem ex secretioribus anime nostre precordiis emanantem paucis aut multis ex filiis nostris et vestris communicare poteritis sicut magis honori nostro communi videbitis expedire pro constanti tenentes quod in hac angaria experiri cupimus qualis et de quibus sit nobis prestolanda fiducia, et erga quos et qualiter dilatanda erunt in posterum viscera caritatis. Duplici autem ex causa petitionem nostram in scriptis vobis cum brevitate iam mittimus ut videlicet in hoc sacro tempore vitetur hinc inde discursus solempnium personarum et per responsionem vestram sic amplius maturandam anxia cordis nostri suspensio celerius auferatur. Valete in Christo feliciter ut optamus. Datum etc.

46b. Walterus permissione divina Cantuariensis Archiepiscopus totius

Anglie Primas dilectis filiis Priori et Capitulo etc. salutem gratiam et benedictionem. Quorum morum probitas et literarum peritia viteque resplendet honestas, maiorum beneficiorum suffragio condecet honorari. Scolaribus itaque domus de Mertone in universitate Oxoniensi qui mundanis abiectis illecebris innocentis vite puritati votis assidue inolescunt studio continuo literarum laudabiliter insudantes, et demum domino dirigente ad altiora vocati in dei ecclesia fructus uberores producentes, manum porrigere munificam meritorium reputamus ut quo magis habundant quietius in suo laudabili proposito valeant prosperari. Quocirca vestram affectionem corditer imploramus quatinus consensum vestrum confirmatorium appropriandi ecclesiam de Woleford Wigorniensis diocesis usibus Magistri et scholarium dicte domus quemadmodum dudum priscis temporibus sibi prout didicimus obtinebant concedi velitis favorabiliter adhibere ex quo multipliciter vester apud deum augeri poterit cumulus meritorum. Valete semper in filio virginis gloriose. Datum apud Lambeth, sexto Kalendas Maii. Anno domini 1300 etc.

47. [Here the writing changes, the letters, &c., seem to have been entered one by one from this point onwards.]

Bond of John, prior of Worcester, to Hugh de Cokesey, in 20 marks, to be paid Michaelmas next.

Letter of the Prior and Chapter to W. ¹, bishop of Worcester, concerning the appropriation of a moiety of the church of Morton Dawbeney to the Master and Brethren of the Hospital of St. John in Warwick, to which they give their consent.

Grant by Simon, prior of the cathedral church of Worcester, and the Chapter of the same, to Hugh de Cokesey of an annual pension of 60s. for his life, in return for his service.

Letter, nearly illegible, referring to a communication unattended to, although sent in duplicate [to the Prior], begging him to do the best he can in the business touching the writer and the chantry of N., about which Master Thomas de B., clerk, is coming to him.

47^b. Letter from the Bishop to the Prior:—"We sent in your absence for T. de B. to come to us for the purpose of preaching on Monday in the monastery of O., on the occasion of our Visitation there. He has now

¹ ? Walter de Maydestone, who was much interested in this Hospital.

arrived. Pray excuse his absence, as he is upon an errand of piety. He shall return as soon as he has discharged it."

Letter of the Bishop referring to the Prior's summons to Wallicus, the Bishop's clerk. The Bishop cannot allow him to leave him at present, as he has no other clerk with him for the Visitation to be held this next Tuesday.

48. Forms of three letters. 1. Deprecatory. 2. Of credentials. 3. Excusing the bearer for delaying beyond the appointed time.

48*b*. Acquittance by J., prior of Worcester, for 20*s*. 3*d*. paid him by the Abbot and Convent of H. for pension out of the church of Hak, due Michaelmas, 1346.

Similar acquittance for 20*s*. pension out of the said church. 1347.

Acquittance by Prior J. to John Musard for £8 6*s*., part payment of the sum of £20 owed by him.

49. Form of a letter of introduction in French.

Forms of letters, as follows :—

Venerabilis pater. Quia, ut accepimus, quidam Nicholaus [blank], frater dilecti clerici nostri et comensalis domini Johannis de Wynchecombe in partibus vestris, ubi favor dominationis vestre quam plurimum sibi potest valere, domicilium elegit. Hinc est quod vestram reverentiam affectuose quatinus eundem Nicholaum, qui quadam affectionis prerogativam afficimur nostri amore favorabiliter suscipientes commendatum deligere velitis ipsique in agendis suis assistere consiliis, auxiliis et favoribus oportunis in occurrentibus vobis gratis fiducialiter rescribentes. Accrescant vobis honor et gaudium per tempora duratura.

Reverendissime pater ac domine, Mitto paternitati vestre reverende W. fratrem meum, de quo vobis in nostro ultimo colloquio coram altare Sancte Cecilie in Ecclesia Cathedrali Wygorniensi locutus fui, quem si placet benigne admittere dignemini est enim quod de eo senserit vestra paternitas reverenda per eundem michi vestro rescribere dignetur eadem ac quando voluerit quod ad vos reveniat ubi et si vobiscum remansurus. Ad hoc reverendissime pater et domine, si que presentibus nostrum ultimum colloquium dominum fratrem meum tangentia minus plene expressa fuerint ipsa

supplere dignetur paternitas vestra reverenda; cui diu et feliciter adaugeat altissimus successus prosperos et votivos.

Reverentiam cum honore domino Reverendo. Formam negotii pro qua michi misistis per Willelmum Camerarium vestrum melius noscitis quam ego. S[c]itis enim sicut aliquando vidistis quod in primis sit aqua benedicta deinde super eandem aquam dicentur ix Evangelia videlicet, 'In principio,' cum 'Natus,' 'Missus est,' 'Recumbentibus' et alia v Evangelia et precipue ea in quibus continetur ista dictio 'oves' sive 'pastor' vel 'pastores ovium'; deinde sint dicte oves in unam domum introducte, et tribus diebus dicta aqua asperse et gratia dei erunt salve. Vos conservet altissimus et vestros greges multiplicet.

Frater in Domino carissime. Quia nobis tarde suggestum est quod ad prosecutionem vestram noster natus et teculator W. K. harum baiulus fere est utlagatus, vos rogamus attentius quatinus in dicta prosecutione vestra erga eundem supersedere volueritis, et super hoc mittere ministris viccomitis Gloucestriensis de ulterius non prosequendo contra eundem quousque in presencia vestra et nostra et seneschalli nostri communis R. P. dictus natus noster in brevi se poterit dominacioni vestre iuxta suum possibile conformare; ad quem effectum mittimus vobis ad presens eundem nativum nostrum ad submitendum se in omnibus vestre gracie racionabiliter ordinate [*sic*]. Valeat dominacio vestra propriis incrementis. Scriptum [*blank*].

A son tresnoble et tresexcellent seignour Sire Edward par la grace de dieux Roi Dengleterre seignour Dirland et de Acquitayne, le soen lige moigne et poure chapeleyn, si luy plest, W., abbe de W., totez maneres de reverences et de pleisaunces ove humilite de queor prest a sez comaundementz. Trecsnoble et tresexcellent seignour plese a vostre excellence savoir que le xxvi^{me} jour de May ieo receu voz honorables lettres fesauntz mencion dun somme ou le altre appariel, a queux lettres, tresnoble seignour, su et serra humblement obeisaunt, com ieo su tenuz et mesqe nul somme ne ai ne unkes avoi ieo frai si dieu plest un pairveier (?) et selom mon poure povoir perfornera, tresnoble seignour, totez voz volentes contentz en voz honorables susdites lettres. Li haut seignour dieu tout poissant vous salue et garde, tresnoble et tresexcellent seignour, al honour de lys (?) et saluacion de vostre realme et de tot vostre pople. Escrites [*blank*].

50 and 50b. Blank.

51. Solet ut scitis post noctium tenebras rutilans aurora consurgere,

post tempestatum horrores placida satis provenire tempora, post infirmitatis molestias sanitas redire securior, et post tribulationum angustias accidere gaudium cum quiete. Sane, amice carissime, nuper non sine gravi cordis nostri dolore scripsimus vobis dura que ut verisimiliter credimus non sine vestri anxietate spiritus recepistis, sed iam deo referimus gratias quo propiciante tristitia nostra versa est in gaudium, et ut vobis iocundiora scribamus. Multiplex est nobis materia ministrata ecclesie, cui iam versa est in luctum cithara. J. de H. compulsus est per amicos nostros et dominos ab ecclesia vestra de Trilleye invitus recedere unde spectamus quod vos eam de cetero poteritis pacifice possidere. Quomodo autem hoc actum est, longum est nimis enarrare discurrendo per singula, et ideo de multis scribimus vobis pauca; unde sciatis quod non ad instantiam A. de B., qui vobis magis abfuit quam profuit, ut vestri sciunt vobis referre, sed ad instantiam nostram, dumtaxat domini Comites Lancastrie et Huntingdon¹, multique alii milites, clerici, simul laici, istud negotium sunt cum maxima diligentia tanquam fuisset eorum negotium proprium prosecuti in tantum uterque quod iam communis est sermo quod nullius tempore qui nunc vivit visum fuit tantum ac tale negotium tam viriliter prosecutum. Credebatur namque apud omnes esse pro certo impossibile enervare iudicium datum pro domino nostro rege et certissime hoc fecit ita difficile quod vix domini supradicti hoc, potuerunt explere. Deo igitur gratias referatis, qui sic sapientiam vincere fecit maliciam veritatemque reprimere falsitatem ac cum sit istud negotium sic ad nostram instantiam consummatum, cogitetis iam vos de negotio de W. pro quo licet ut nobis aliquando scripsistis indignationes sustinueritis aliquorum studiatis eas equanimite tollerare.

Norunt enim vestri quanta opprobria indignaciones et dampna pro vobis sustinuerimus et sustineamus eciam in presenti nec in hiis flectimur quin quod incepimus prosequamur. Jam utique pondus belli versum est in nos, factique sunt inimici in capite omnes ipsius Thome amici; excogitant vias et modos nobis nocendi, exacuunt contra nos tanquam gladium linguas suas, parant nobis insidias in occulto, sed nos pacienter sustinemus universa ut demus vobis exemplum ut consimiliter faciatis. Valet.

51b. Letter from John, prior of Worcester, to John, archbishop of Canterbury and papal legate. The Archbishop has always befriended the house of Worcester, and in his present difficulties the Prior does not know to whom to turn. He would come in person were it not for certain dangers, which he fears. He therefore sends his cellarer.

A similar letter without an address.

¹ The mention of the Earls of Lancaster and Huntingdon *together* limits the date of this letter (the subject of which is very obscure) to the years 1337—1345.

Letter from Nicholas, sub-prior of Worcester, to Sir T. de R., stating that the difficulties he has to meet are so great he cannot see any way out of them unless they have his assistance as they so often have had before.

52. Letter of the sub-prior in French to that honourable and wise man, his very dear and very wise friend, Sir W. de Schatshulle, thanking him for all he has done in the past for the good of their house, and trusting he will continue to serve them "en ceste graunt besoigne que nostre priour ad affaire devaunt vous qest sauntz coupe. Et, Sire, pour dieux et en couere de charite voillez ceste nostre pouere priour ensi prendre a queor qe nous ne nostre eglise en voz presencez ne seyons par maliciose seutez endamagez countre resoun. Et, Sire, entendez de certain qe quant nous avoms affaire nostre chef recouererast en vous et longement ad fait qe dieux le vous rende. Treschier Sire, le seynt esprit etc."

52*b*. Letter to "their father and reverend lord," thanking him for the comfort he has been to them on many occasions in London, and begging him to confer personally with the bearer hereof.

Letter expressing gratitude to S. de B. for his friendly help in the matter brought by "him of A." against our house.

Domine et frater carissime, vobis quantum scimus et possumus de multiplici solacio per vos Londonie nobis facto. Sciatisque quod licet cum difficultate magna fecimus petitionem vestrum pro clerico vestro puero et iuvene iuxta vestras litteras expediri. Nolumus enim tam grato fratri in suis petitionibus quatenus est nobis possibile aliquialiter displicere. Sciatis autem quod nisi fuisset ad instanciam vestram non fuisset inter nos puer tam iuvenis sic admissus, licet Episcopus noster et alii maiores de partibus nostris scripsissent pro eo. Sciatis insuper quod summe desideramus vobiscum habere colloquium propter multa inde si placet rescribatis nobis an velitis ad nos accedere Wygornienses vestros fratres visitare vel quod nos ad vos alicubi ubi assignare volueritis veniamus. In domino valeatis.

Salutem. Quam nobis rumores quos nobis scripsistis animo libenti recepimus, parati plures recipere cum scribetis. Rogamusque quod per proximos intervenientes quoslibet velitis scribere quid est actum. Miramur autem quod non scripsistis nobis pro expensis vobis mittendis. Supponimus enim quod expense quas vobis tradidimus defecerint a diu, unde plures vobis misissemus per presencium portitorem si novissemus eundem. Quapropter scribatis nobis quanto indigeritis et mitemus id vobis per unum de nostris. Scribatis eciam nobis per proximum intervenientem quantum solvere debeamus domino J. de B. [?] et quando ut providere possimus de pecunia

illi solvenda citra terminum quem prefixistis eidem. Scribatis insuper nobis an expediat excitare dominos L. et alios per alias litteras eis mittendas, ac certificetis nos quomodo est de statu vestro et cuiuslibet vestrum, nam de hoc summe optamus prosperos audire rumores. Speramus eciam quod multi clamabunt vobiscum contra illos de Maddel'. Ad quod faciendum excitetis omnes amicos vestros et nostros ut clamor populi excutet aures eius ut agnoscat quod vox populi sit vox dei. Valetis.

53^b. Letter expressing surprise that the large sum owing the writer has not been paid. It could have been sent in small sums at a time; when the writer sent his porter for it, he brought back word that the sum should be paid before or at the Feast of the Purification.

Two letters illegible.

54. Quicquid amicitie sciverit et honoris. Litteras vestras revolvimus diligenti scrutinio et quia earum prospecto tenore quedam in eis contenta videbantur nobis repugnancia hiis que A. de B. frequenter nobis retulit viva voce, ac eciam hiis que nos illi diximus quando ipsa nostra negocia de quibus nobis scripsistis penes vos commendavimus prosequendum, misimus pro A. de B. et ostendimus litteras vestras ei qui ut verum fateamur de multis in eisdem contentis, sicut et nos, obstupuit vehementer, unde cum non possimus ad singula in eis contenta sufficienter calamo respondere nisi prolixam nimis paginam faceremus, mitemus ad vos in brevi A. de B. aut J. de L. qui ut speramus, iuxta conducta inter vos ac eciam condicenda finem faciet in negotio memorato. Verumtamen, domine, multum miramur quod Bulla nullam facit penitus mentionem de capellis ecclesie ipsi annexis videlicet de capellis J. de F. etc., nam in supplicatione nostra quam domino A. tradidimus expressam de hiis fecimus mentionem unde et vellemus si fieri possit quod saltem de capella de J. et de capellano de A. fiat mentio in bulla ipsa, licet debeat alias ingrossari. In prosperitate continua diu valeat status vester.

Quicquid reverentie sciverit et honoris domino et amico carissimo. Rogavit nos lator presentium filius cuiusdam vicini nostri de A. quatinus erga dominationem vestram devotis precibus instaremus ut eum de uno titulo intuitu caritatis munire dignaremini per quem ad sacros possit ordines promoveri, cui procul dubio nosmetipsi subvenisse de uno titulo curassemus, nisi obstitisset consuetudo contraria domus nostre, que ut huiusmodi titulos alicui concedamus nequaquam permittit. Quocirca vestre amicitie supplicamus quatinus de uno titulo munire velitis eundem, quia ut nobis retulit idem lator non est contra consuetudinem domus vestre quod huiusmodi titulos concedatis. In honore continuo Dominus vos conservet.

54*b*. A son treshonour seignour Leonel¹ filtz nostre tresnoble et trespuissant seignour le Roi Dengleterre et de France, et al altres de conseil nostre dit seignour le Roi, lour humble chapeleyn le priour de Wircestre ove devoutez oresons totez reverencez et honoures. Treshaut seignour, plese a vostre haute seignourie entendre que com nous avoms en mandement par lettre de soubz le prive seal nostre seignour le Roi de ly aprester leynes que coment que nous soioms dassetez bone volente et devocion de ceo faire si nous fuissoms de pooir certeynement pur divers meschiefs que nous sont aveniez et purs diversez dettez que nous devons as divers creansours nous avoms vendutz avaunt la mayn totez nos leynes del an que cour, mes nientmeyns pur plesir a la haute seignourie nostre tresnoble seignour le Roi et la vostre ferroms achater (blank) de (blank) et les durroms a nostre dit seignour de bon coer. Par qei supplioms devoutement qe pleise a vostre haute seigneurie de ceo que nous ne pooms plus doner nous tenir ent pur escuses. Vostre vie teigne en bone salute longes a durer Dieu omnipotent al honour de luy et pru de ceo realme.

A nostre treschere et tresame friere en Dieu quantqe nous savoms et pooms de bien et de honour. Trescher Sire, veillez saver qe nous desiroms mout de parler ove vous et voluntiers vendroms a Warwik ou aillours ou qe vous fuissetz, mes nous nosoms par reson qe nous sumes a ceo qe nous est fait entendre fausement enditez en le Counte Oxenford, par qey, trescher sire et frere, nous enveioms a vous nostre cellarer portour de cestes a qi veillez si pleiser vous soit doner foi et credence et en eouere de charite faire ceo qil vous priera de par nous et veilleitz, trescher sire, saver qe coment qe soit qe ascuns gentz vous eiont excite countre nous nous fioms entierement en vostre amyste et en vostre bone aide et ceo nous est a comfort entre totez altres choses qar, si ceo ne fust, nous serreioms trop deschaitetz des novels qe nous avoms oy. A Dieu, trescher sire, qil vous salve toutz jours et vous donne bone vie et longe. Escrites.

55. Letter written in connection with the exchange between J. de B., rector of the church of H. in "our patronage," and Sir J. de B., rector of the church of D. L., also in "our patronage," requiring the addressee to present the said Sir J. de B. to the church of H., and to do those things which our squire (domicellus), A. de F., bearer of these presents, will tell by word of mouth.

Manumission of John Walter of Fepstone by John, prior of Worcester.

¹ Lionel, Duke of Clarence, 1362—1368.

Manumission by the same of J. de B., upon condition he procure his promotion to sacred orders when he comes of lawful age; if he marry or take orders within age or do anything to the hurt of the monastery, these letters to be void.

55*b*. Inspeximus and ratification by John, prior of Worcester, of the manumission of J. de F. by Bishop Wulstan.

Letter of the Chancellor of the University of Oxford asking preferment for Thomas de Malmeshalle, M.A., who has obtained special letters from the Pope for preferment at the hands of the Prior and Chapter of Worcester.

56. Letter of J. de C., "his poor chaplain," to the Earl of Huntingdon¹, thanking him for his kindness in the matter of Tredynton.

Reverende magister, misissemus vobis pecuniam in qua vobis tenemur in festo Purificationis instanti, sed quia ut credimus opus habemus valde magnum inchoare quod sine vestro consilio incipere non audemus, proponimus firmiter ad vos infra octo dies in propria venire persona, nobiscum vestram pecuniam propter viarum pericula dilaturi; et si eam prius habere velitis significetis hoc nobis per presentium portatorem, et veniet ad vos cum gratiarum actionibus procul dubio sine mora.

[At bottom of fol. 56:] Noli confundi misara dulcedine mundi.

56*b*. Pater et domine reverende. Noveritis quod tempore confectionis presentium et diu ante non leni egritudine laboravi a qua vestris precibus et orationibus me posse liberari confido, quibus si placet me specialiter recomendo. Ad hec que Magister T. de C. maliciose contra dominum nostrum E. prosequitur causam malam asserens que gratiam et precessus per E. fratrem suum sibi fecit intimari, cuius contrarium dedici certissime p. . . re verum, ac idem Magister T. possessionem ecclesie sue modo pacifice est adeptus, vosque potestis et o posse debetis eum ducere prout vlt, vestram paternitatem rogo quatenus eidem T. omnino suadere velitis ut contentus gratia quam Deus sibi concessit cesset extunc dominos vicinos de partibus sumptibus et laboribus ac maliciose litibus fatigare [etc.].

Letters of Credence for J. de S. sent upon business of the monastery. [French.]

57. Letters sent to some person unnamed, accusing him of procuring money for his private use, neglecting the business of the abbot or rather of

¹ William de Clinton, 1337—1354.

his house, which the said abbot had entrusted to him; and of begging favours from the Pope under circumstances which he has misrepresented. The writer has received the reproaches of a certain prelate, who (on his recommendation) received him into his house, when he was in a state of poverty.

[*At the bottom of the page in another hand.*] Littera dompni Johannis Evesham, Prioris Wigorniensis, directa uni monacho ad Avinionem ubi tunc fuerunt simul papa et pestilencia.

Audivimus frater quod neglecto abbatis tui vel verius domus tue negocio principali, quod tuus abbas de tua fidelitate confidens tibi commiserat prosequendum, tua propria seu privata negocia ipsius interveniente pecunia procurasti, summoque pontifici pro tibi gratiis faciendis supplicationes varias porrexisti; de quo, si ita fuerit ut refertur, vehementer miramur, et ultra quam penna sciamus rescribere conturbamur. Miramur siquidem quod vir quem tam gratum reputavimus et fidelem tam infideliter et tam ingrante se gessit, unde non sine causa turbamur verisimiliter presumentes quod ob tuam culpam nobis impropere tuus prelatus, qui ad nostram instanciam ex habitu seculari et condicione satis exili ad sue domus habitationem et habitum te admisit, et cum indigens esses nec haberes aliunde succursum tibi necessaria pro tuo ministravit ingressu; et nedum hoc fecit, sed cum esses de suo et sua gratia sic indutus, post professionem tuam ad se familiarius ceteris te attraxit, specialius aliis te instruxit, aliisque dignioribus sorte vel sine sorte postpositis ad scholas te misit; et postea cum esses in religione provectore [*sic*] te Cellerarium domus sue prefecit, que omnia nostri contemplacione fecisse se dicit; nec quin hec omnia occasione nostri partim perfecit possumus vel audemus aliquo modo abnegare. Turbamur igitur nescientes quid grato homini respondebimus pro ingrato, quid benefico pro iniquo, aut quid confidenti etiam pro infido. Miramur etiam qua fronte in eum decetero presumes conspiceri si prefata eius beneficia cum tuis factis aut potius malefactis revolvas. Verbum siquidem sapientis est. Non moliaris amico tuo malum cum ipse in te habeat fiduciam; tu autem verbo sapientis contempto prelato tuo, qui in te prout in multiplicibus factis te experientia docuit, quam in ceteris sue domus, fiduciam habuit amplioem, malum pro bono recompensare iam studes. Audivimus etiam quod optinuisti de domini nostri pape [*sic*] fieri capellanum quodque diligenter procuras ut dominus papa tibi in domo tua provideat de uno grandi corrodio pro te ac tua familia, ubique concordat [?] ut irrequesito consensu tui prelati aud alterius cuiuscumque possis in studio generali persistere quousque statum attigeris doctoratus. Proh pudor! quomodo poterant hec in cor tuum ascendere? quomodo poterat talia machinari? Cur tanto onere velles domum

tuam iam opprimi, qui eam hucusque aut in nullo aut in modico relevasti? Cur etiam tantum affectas cum onere domus tue ad gratiam erigi doctoratus? An non attendis quod si theologie doctor esse disideres non es in philosophicis eruditus? si autem iuris canonici doctor esse volueris deficit ius civile. Sicque si recte consideres invenies te inhabilem ad utrumque, nec decetero te habilitari posse te credas, cum sis iam etate provectus et communi cursu nature fies progressu temporis ineptior de inepto. Utinam hec diligenter adverteres adiciens ad prefata quod si inexpedito principali negocio pro quo eras ad curiam destinatus, talia expedieris pro teipso, qui olim apud fratres tuos et alios exstiteras bone fame, eris decetero reputatus infamis, et qui fidelis dicebaris et fidus reputaberis, perfidus et proditor et seductor. Tuncque erit gracia tua parum grata cum in infamiam converteris tuam famam, fidem tuam in perfidiam nosceris convertisse. Concludimus ergo frater specialiter te rogantes tibi que specialiter consulentes quatinus, si huiusmodi supplicationes domino pape porrexeris, eas prosequi mox desistas, ac circa expeditionem nogocii tibi commissi totis viribus elaboras, nec mireris quod te sic arguimus in scribendo vel quod tibi sic scribimus sub numero singulari. Cum [enim] te amemus te castigare volentes arguimus instar Dei, qui quem amat corripit et castigat, et hoc utique sub numero facimus singulari, quia non est in Domino nostro ut quem hominem de ingratitude corripit, illi reverenciam faciat aliqualem. Si falsa fuerint que de te audivimus valeat vita tua; si autem fuerint ipsa vera nisi resipiscas Avinionensis ipsa pestilencia te consumat. Scriptum etc.

57b, 58. Reverende domine et carissime si placet amice. Vestris litteris ultime mihi missis animadversione prout debuit solita masticatis admiror quodammodo super contentis serius in eisdem. Primo siquidem ubi vos dicitis et narratis quod status mei desideratis commodum et consequenter affectatis honorem vellem libentissime quod sic esset et quod evidencia plani facti scriptis tam magnificis patulo consonaverit. Sed dubito, domine reverende, quod ex quo finis et medium huiusmodi litterarum cum suo placabili principio non concordant quin potius ingeritur a primordio potus dulcis et immediate postea proponitur liquor fellis, non potest esse meo iudicio, vestra tamen reverentia semper salva, quin manifestius intendatis ad mee prevaricationis ignaviam quam ad honorificam commoditatem meo statui procurandam, et hoc vobis patere poterit tam per inferius comprehensa quam etiam per alia paradigmata vobis amplius litteratorie denudata. Porro, domine reverende, considerato rescripto per quod vestra nititur sinceritas affirmare vobis esse laqueum speratum, si ubi numquam fuerit attentionis circa totalem expeditionem negotii plus apponere centum libris quodque pro tanto sumpturi post alterationem diutinam pro dicti negotii completionem convenit. Placeat vobis scire quod de intentione vestra primeva nescio

iudicare nec inde volo fieri protervus arbiter vel discussor, sed tamen volo dicere coram Deo semper tamen salvo predicti domini J. pre quod numquam aliud loquebar nec aliud intellexi nisi ad libras finaliter solveritis quinpo . . . absque dubitatione quingentas libras poteram autem merem. Hac de causa dum tamen non per viam commissionis sed ex certa scientia finiretur. Statum meum voluissetis indempnem per omnia conservasse et hoc sum ego iurare paratus absque conscientie lesione, et credo quod quantumcunque prefatus dominus J., quem reputo providum et peritum pro sue considerationis iudicio, sic iuraret prout superius recitatur si tamen sinceriter faciam vel attemptem contrarium sacramentum tot et tanti et immo forte plures in hoc finaliter mihi crederent quot seu quanti suis fidem relatibus adhiberent, unde videte si vobis velim magnam nunc offerre mensuram quam non deberet aliquis refutare. Recitetur principium huius facti coram quolibet orthodoxo, discutiatur immensitas huius tante rei, prefati domini J. et mea contrarietas elucescat, p negotii magnitudo difficultas prosecutionis . . . videatur revolvatur perpetuitas attendatur valor ecclesie consid ma gratitudo cum laboriosa solitudine subsequente quam apposui [per?] tempora sic diffusa presertim libratibus angariis resultantibus undequaque, quibus attentis nollem Deo teste pro quadringentis libris negotium manu . . . re coequale. Volo ut deceat me libenter committeret [*sic*] cuiuslibet arbitrio boni viri utrum videlicet mea petitio sit moderate rationabilis aut nimium excessiva, sicque spero quod sic voluntarie vos non inveniant turbidos aut molestos quin saltem assequar finaliter alicuius orbitam bonitatis reiecta calumpnia qualicumque. Dicitis etiam quod mecum nullatenus convenistis, sed quod vobis dixeram in autumpno quod a negotii prosecutione cessarem si completum non fuisset in festo Pentecostes proxime precedente, in quo casu sicud scribitis vos rogarem ut me conservaretis indempnem, ad quem quidem rogatum ut dicitis solvistis nullo modo, consentientes eidem . . . quod vestre voluntatis non extitit summam transgre . . . mihi primordiam ac etiam alia satis . . . que [*here the entry of the letter breaks off*].

58*b*. Manumission of Walter, son of Walter Hale of Bradwas, if he within a year of attaining lawful age take priest's orders. Dated at Worcester, 29th [? 5th] of August, 1351.

Indenture between Nicolas, Abbot of Eynsham¹ and John Prior of Worcester, testifying that a bond of the said abbot in £22 and £11, arrears of pension out of the church of Tettebury, shall be held void and discharged on the payment at Worcester of £5 on the Octave of St. Michael

¹ Nicolas de Upton.

next and £6 on the Octave of All Saints then next following. Dated the Morrow of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 1351.

Letters of attorney by John, prior of Worcester, to Robert de Weston, Nicolas de Clanfield and Walter de Weneforton. Dated in the chapter at Worcester, 10 December, 1351.

59. Letter of introduction for the bearer, upon a matter touching their church. 10 June, 1395.

59*b*. Bond of John, prior of Worcester, to Hugh de Stokesey in 20 marks, to be paid at Michaelmas.

60. Summons to Parliament at Westminster on Sunday before the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. Dated at Westminster 20 November, 34 Edward [III.] (1360). Addressed to the Abbot of Winchcombe¹.

Letter to the King from his humble chaplain the Prior, sending A. B., clerks, as his proxies at the parliament at Westminster on the Sunday before the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul next.

60*b*. Petition to Pope Urban² "Devoti Oratores vestri Prior et Capitulum Wygorniensis flexis ad terram genibus pedum oscula beatorum. Patrone benignissime, relatione veredica recenter didicimus quod venerabiles fratres Wygorniensem ad Bathoniensem et Wellensem et Londoniensem ad Wygorniensem ac Cycystrensem Episcopos ad Londoniensem ecclesias dispositione provida transferentes reverendum virum magistrum T. de T., decanum Londoniensem prefecistis ecclesie Cycestrensi. Verum quia pro firmo cognovimus nec sanctitatem vestram credimus ignorare quod prefati Londoniensis et Cycestrensis Episcopi a suis quibus iam presunt sedibus recedere non proponunt si tantum absque vestre beatitudinis offensa remanere poterunt in eisdem, sanctitati vestre humillime supplicamus quatenus prefatum Magistrum T. de T., cuius mores et approbata merita ipsa rerum magistra efficaci experientia cognovimus ab antiquo et cuius nota plenaque sufficientia tam in spiritualibus quam in temporalibus adiectione reccomendationis non indiget, vestra dignetur bonitas divulgata ad nostre Wygorniensis ecclesie prosperum regimen et

¹ The abbot being Walter de Winforton.

² Urban V., 1362—1370. Of the translations here set forth only that of John Barnet, Bp. of Worcester, to Bath and Wells (1364) actually took place. He was succeeded at Worcester by Wm. Wittlesey, Bp. of Rochester, and Thomas Trillek, Dean of St. Paul's, was appointed to Rochester: this is the magister T. de T. of the text. Wm. Lynn, Bp. of Chichester (1362), was translated to Worcester in 1369, the prior being all the time John de Evesham. The Bp. of London was Simon Sudbury (1362—1375).

subditorum ipsius quietem infallibilem dare nobis celeriter in episcopum et pastorem. Non enim posset idem Magister T. de episcopatus ipsius regimine bono deficere, qui in partibus ipsis materno tractus ab utero et patrie et personarum eiusdem conditiones et statum cognoscit ad plenum et ibidem virtuosa et irreprehensibili conversatione de bono semper in [melius ?] est progressus. Sanctitatem vestram ad felix regimen ecclesie sue diu conservet trinitas indivisa. Datum etc."

Item alia missa Cardinali [*then follow notes of the difference of this letter from the one above*].

Treshonure seignour notre reverent piere nostre evesqe nous at fait entendre qil vous ad requys pour nous qe nous puissoms aver vostre bone voilaunce et vostre bone seignourie, et qe si rienz eioms mespris contre vostre seignurie qe nous puissoms redresser, a ycele qe vous de vostre tresgraunde bounte et graciouse seignourie auetz graunte a sa requeste dester a sa ordinaunce et lordinaunce monsieur Rogier de Beauchamp des trespas qe nous sount surmys si nous voilloms auxinc nous mettre en lour ordinaunce. Par qei treshonoure Sire voilletz sauoyr nous nous mettroms volentiers en lour ordinaunce qar sur tutez veuz terestres desiroms clamer vostre bone voillaunce et vostre bone seignourie et vous prioms pour Dieu qe nous lez puissoms attendre et qe vous voilletz avier mercy et pite de nous et de vostre miere eglise de Wyrcestre. Treshonoure sire Dieu soit garde de vous toutz jour. Escrite a Wyrcestre.

Letter of J., prior of Worcester, to J. de B., thanking him for all his trouble on behalf of his house, admitting him to the spiritual brotherhood of their church and granting him a share in all their Masses, hours, prayers, vigils, disciplines, fastings, almsgivings, hospitalities and other benefits.

Letter of the Prior to the Bishop asking him to excuse his not visiting him when he passed through London. On account of the many perils of the road, he was so poorly attired, that he could not present himself to the Bishop.

62. Olim socio nunc autem domino et amico quicquid reverencie sciverit et honoris. Clare satis prospeximus quod in vobis honor mores non mutat sed monstrat; iam enim insinuatis in munere quod prius habebatis in mente. Rogamusque vos toto corde quatenus si quid penes nos volueritis id nobis precipiatis in capite sicut vestro. In honore continuo valeat status vester.

Domine et pater reverende, accedit ad dominationem vestram reverendam lator presentium ob expeditionem cuiusdam negotii quod et eum

et unum de nostris concernit, cui velit si placet vestra dominatio reverenda in verbis dicendis fidem indubiam adhibere et eundem in sua petitione favorabiliter exaudire. Ad honorem sui in honore continuo Dominus vos conservet.

Reverende domine et amice si placet carissime, vester antiquus socius in scholis, nunc indignus cappellanus beati Petri piscatoris duos pisciculos vobis mittit rogans intime et ex corde pristinam et molitam amicitiam vestram actenus sibi impensam erga se et negotia sua, eo ferventius quo nunc magis indiget de cetero . . . ari si placet. Valeat in prosperis dominatio vestra prout scribens desiderat se valere.

62b. Carissime domine et amice predelecte, de zelo quem habetis erga religionem nostram et monasterium nostrum Wigorniensem et commonachum nostrum fratrem Magistrum de M . . . priorem nostrum de Sta . . . vobis debitas actiones reddimus graciaram. Et quia tantum et tale negotium ad comodum ecclesie nostre de G. non potest prout scitis in ictu oculi expediri Scire velitis quod in propria persona sumus in Prioratu nostro de S. die confectionis presentium ad videndum et examinandum qualiter stant circumstantie dicti Prioratus nostri et illo negotio completo mittimus vobis quid intendimus facere ad communem nostrum honorem de contentis in vestris litteris nobis missis quod Deo dante erit infra triduum a datis nostrarum presentium litterarum. Juxta vestri scribentis affectum valeat semper in prosperis status vester. Scriptum apud Prioratum nostrum de S. die Lune infra Octavam Epiphanie.

Letter to the Prior commencing, Pater, frater et Amice fidelissime. The new year's gift sent to the writer he has distributed, not like Laurence among the poor, but among the rich, he hopes with wisdom, but urges the Prior to hasten to London for the good of his house. He can then speak to him and tell him much that he cannot convey in writing. London, 2nd of April.

63. Sanctissimo in Christo patri ac domino . . . domino Urbano divina providencia . . . Romane ac universalis ecclesie summo pontifici suus orator et . . . Prior ecclesie cathedralis Wygorniensis subiectionem devotam ac flexis genibus pedum oscula beatorum. Sanctissime pater et domine, dum sollicita meditatione considero quomodo providencia principis vos ad apicem summi pontificatus elegit in terris gaudeo pariter et exulto summoque desiderio vestram videre desidero sanctitatem, eram etenim alias reverentie vestre notus timeoque quod lapsus temporis oblivionem inducens sic noticiam ipsam obduxerit ut vestra iam sanctitas mei minime

recordetur. Utinam annuat mihi Deus ut saltem semel antequam moriar vestram beatitudinem valeam intueri quam utique visitassem ad . . . ut mare transissem regalis auctoritas permisisset, si ea in maris transitu prohibente perficere non potui quod volebam, sicut venerabilis pater dominus abbas de K. presentium portitor satis novit, et cui utinam in supplicationibus quas vestre porriget sanctitati eadem vestra sanctitas se exhibeat gratiosam. Scio procul dubio, beatissime pater, quod si dominatio vestra plenam haberet de ipsius probitate notitiam, inveniret vestram beatitudinem sibi plurimum gratiosam; sicut etenim didici ab hiis qui vitam ejus noverunt et mores, vitam virtuosam duxit a puero et post religionis ingressum pallio egiptiaco derelicto, priverigia et que mundi erant abiciens cepit mox maturitate senescere et futuram nature ca . . . maturiori morum senio pervenire, sicque suis exigentibus meritis factus monasterii sui Abbas, cum essent pro pauperitate ipsius monasterii fratres ipsius pro magna parte dispersi, eos revocavit quamcivis potuit ad ovile . . . et eis et ceteris ductor et doctor, vite speculum, morum s . . . et sanctitatis exemplum. Monasterium etiam supradictum, quod ante ipsius perfectionem tam in facultatibus quam edificiis erat pro majori parte collapsum per suam in magna parte reparavit industriam, sed deficientibus sibi sumptibus sine vestre sanctitatis suffragio, reparare non potest ad plenum. Dignetur igitur, benignissime pater et domine, vestra sanctitas ac benignitas singularis eum specialiter commendatum habere supplicationesque quas eidem sanctitati vestre pro dicto monasterio faciet favorabiliter expedire. Ad universalis ecclesie regimen et munimen sanctitudinem vestram conservet altissimus temporibus duraturis.

63^b. Reverendissime pater et domine. Pro vestris immensis beneficiis mihi et parvule domui vestre Wynch[combe] sepius exhibitis et impensis, vobis non sufficio gratas reddere vices pro quibus retribuatur altissimus omnium retributor. Ceterum etiam de vestre solite bonitatis affluentia spem gerens indubitata paternitatem vestram reverendam humiliter deprecor et exoro, quatinus pro mea confratrumque meorum majori quiete velitis si libeat unam dimissionem nobis de tempore quo ecclesie Wygorniensis preuistis concedere de ecclesiis portionibus et pensionibus quas nos et predecessores nostri in diocesi Wygorniensis percipere consuevimus ab antiquo et habere, cujus formam per consilium nostrum sub vestra correctione conceptam vobis transmitto presencium per latorem, cui fidem si libeat in dicendo in hac parte credulam adhibentes vestre dominacionis beneplacita super hiis remittere velitis per eundem; quo ad subsidium domino Cardinali Cantuariensi nuper concessum diligenciam meam nunc instante die solucionis ipsius per me et benivolos meos per quos idem negocium credo posse prosperare iuxta vires apponam, de qua dominacioni vestre reverende Deo volente

constabit satis in futurum. Ad regimen ecclesie vestre ac gregis dominici vobis commissi paternitatem vestram diu conservare dignetur incolumem Jesus Christus. Scriptum, etc.

Domine et amice carissime. Tractavimus iterum cum fratribus nostris super hiis que nobis ex parte domini nostri Regis per ipsius litteras intimastis, quia propter varias oppressiones et diversa infortunia quibus ecclesia nostra succumbit a prestatione lanarum et earum mutuo multipliciter se excusant et precipue quia sicut ore tenus vobis diximus propter huiusmodi oppressiones et infortunia a diu vendidimus lanas nostras; unde tractabimus adhuc iterum et iterum cum eisdem, et in casu quo non possumus precepta domini nostri Regis prout sue littere continent adimplere, erimus Londonie in termino quem nobis dixistis nisi gravis infirmitas aut urgens necessitas nos impediatur quominus illuc personaliter accedere valeamus, in quibus quidem casibus mitemus ad vos in dicto termino domus nostre cellerarium cum sufficienti mandato ad respondendum et comparendum pro nobis ac ad cetera omnia faciendum que nos facere possemus si ibidem in propria essemus persona, quem si placet cum ad vos venerit velitis amore nostri dei insinuare quid in hoc casu decreveritis consultius faciendum. Semper feliciter valeatis.

Power of attorney by N. le Swon [?] and G. his wife, to their proxy, J. de la More, of the diocese of Exeter, to act in their name at the Court of Canterbury. Given under the seal of the Dean of Winchecumbe.

64 and 64*b*. A duplicate of the letter of John de Evesham, entered on fol. 57 above.

Salutem cum continue et sincere dilectionis optentu. Scire velitis amice carissime dominum J. de B. exhibitorum presentium in nostra comitiva a tempore vestri de nobis transitus continue moratum fuisse, illo tempore dumtaxat excepto quo postquam Frater N. de T. re . . . aluit ad partes Glastonienses in vestris negotiis sicut nobis asseruit iter egit. Et quoniam amice litteras quasdam dominis abbatibus Evesham et de H. ac etiam alibi non multum distantius eidem tradidimus deferendas, de mora illius amore nostri vestra dilectio non miretur, quem libenter vellemus de vestra benevolentia in vigilia Sancti Mathei circa horam diei nonam nobiscum esse [etc.].

65*b*. Confirma sententiam et scribe decretum, Dan. vj. capitulo Reverende pater et domine, iuxta sententiam canonis ca. viij. q. i. *Apostolica*, presulatus officium non sanguini debetur sed meritis, idque non successio sanguinis sed electio da . . . communis per electiones, namque sicut testatur decretum querendus est presul qui communi utilitati digne deserviat, qui populi utilitatem non propria lucra querat, qui Christo voluerit

semen suscitare non sibi divitias congregare. Talium autem raritatem prospiciens Jeremias xlix capitulo querit Quis erit electus et quem preponam? set Actuum ix respondetur Vas electionis mihi est iste. Iste inquam Wlstanus quem alias Wygorniense capitulum ad officium presulatus elegit velut inter eos magis idoneum, et metropolitanus qui tunc fuerat confirmavit ut dignum. Iste etiam quem idem capitulum ex communi et concordii sententia elegit nunc iterum et huc misit iterum confirmandum, ut ergo, pater et domine reverende, quod factum sic unanimiter sicque concorditer extitit stabile sit et firmum, ipsius nostri capituli confirma sententiam et confirmationis vestre scribe decretum. Confirma sententiam et scribe decretum, sub quibus verbis sic breviter ad propositum introductis, ecce quod fecimus, roborari iam petimus. Confirma sententiam et ecce roborationis modum quem appetimus, ut sufficiat. Scribe decretum; confirma ergo sententiam et scribe decretum, reverende pater et domine, sicut tradunt canones. Confirmatur parvulus baptizatus ut gratiam plenariam et robur recipiat; confirmatur ad dignitatem electus ut quod operatur vim habeat; confirmatur etiam interdum sententia ut solidius ipsa subsistat, sicque prestat confirmatio robur et gratiam parvulis, roborat confirmatio ea que post hanc facta fuerint ab electis et robur etiam interdum iudicum dat sententiis. Confert utique robur et gratiam parvulis dicente decreto de consecratione dist: quinta, *Spiritus sanctus*, quod in baptismo regeneramur ad vitam, confirmatione augmentum suscipimus gratie et roboramur ad pugnam. Roborat etiam ea que post hanc facta fuerint ab electis, cum enim non valeat si quid electus administraverit ante eam, sicut patet ex titulo de electione in capitulo *Nosti* et per alia multa capitula. Valet enim quod fuerit post hanc actum ut patet e titulo in capitula transmissa. Dat etiam confirmatio interdum robur sententiis sicut enim dicit decretum dist: lxiiij in capitulo *Extra conscientiam*, tunc integrum est iudicium cum fuerit plurimorum sententiis confirmatum. Magnam itaque, pater et domine reverende, vim habet confirmatio que, cum electis administrandi in spiritualibus primo tribuat potestatem, tanto est magis acceleranda quanto ex eius dilatione maiora poterunt imminere pericula. Ubi enim maiora poterunt imminere pericula ibi citius est adhibenda cautela sicut videtur in illo capitulo Sexti de electione *Ubi periculum* libro quinto¹. Moveant ergo vos, pater et domine reverende, ad confirmationem presentis negotii pericula vacantis ecclesie et nedum hec set valor electe persone et observantia forme debite. Hec sunt enim que reddunt electionem merito confirmandam; primo inquam ad confirmandum hanc electionem movere vos debent pericula vacantis ecclesie quantis enim anxietur pressuris quantis molestetur hostilitatis insidiis; quoniam etiam que sustentationi

¹ There is a mistake here: the reference should be, Sext. i. t. 6, c. 3.

pauperum applicari deberent direptioni patent in multis, qualiterque predicta destruuntur; quoniam etiam ipsius ecclesie libertates conculcatori subiacent; qualiterque oves proprium ignorantes pastorem silvescunt et errare per devia non formidant dum sic est ecclesia destituta pastoris nescio ad plenum iam dicere cum non sit facile hec prout sunt manifestare sermone. Sentit hec utique detrimenta vacans Wygorniensis ecclesia que hec tollerat et gemunt filii pre dolore qui matrem sic cruciat. Utinam ergo, benignissime pater, ad hec intuenda oculus se vester aperiat, utinam hec vestra sollicitudo consideret, leditur enim universalis ecclesia dum sic patietur membrum eius, quemadmodum enim in unius membri lesione cuncta corporis membra quodam passionis participio molestantur; sic tota Christi ecclesia sentit dispendium si quid membrum eius patiatur discrimen. Una est enim ubique terrarum ecclesia licet quadam immensitate videatur diffudi, quam cantu sexto sponsus ex parte Christi designat cum dicit. Una est columba mea perfecta mea. Hanc eciam ecclesie unitatem docet Apostolus Hebraicis sexto¹, et sacramentum unitatis ostendit cum dicit unum corpus et unus spiritus, una eciam spes vocacionis nostre, unus dominus, una fides, unum baptisma, una fides, unus Deus. Hanc autem unitatem sicut dicit decretum 24 q. 1, capitulo *Loquitur Dominus*, tenere firmiter et vindicare debetis maxime vos episcopi qui in Dei presidetis ecclesia ut episcopatum quoque ipsum unum atque indivisum probetis. Nemo (66b) nequiter fraternitatem fallat, nemo fidei veritatem perfida prevaricatione corrumpat. Episcopatus, inquit, unus est, cuius singularis pars tenetur insolidum; et ecclesia una est que in multitudine latius incremento fecunditatis extenditur, unde profecto nequaquam, ut tenetur, Christi ecclesiam diligit, qui, dum ipsa in membris patitur, quatinus in illo est ipsius dispendiis non resis[t]it, nec episcopatus ut debet tuetur officium; qui cum possit non repellit alterius periculum velut suum. In figura utique huius Christus Petro, qui in se omnium tipum gessit, qui vices Christi in ecclesia quo ad subditos eius gerunt, non unam singularem sed totam et universalem ecclesiam tradidit gubernandam: per hoc rectores ecclesiarum quoscumque volens instruere ut unusquisque eorum totam et universalem ecclesiam teneatur defendere et omnium membrorum ipsius periculis obviare, unde, sicut dicit Ciprianus in quadam epistola et ponitur in canone verbi sancti, ut tota Christi ecclesia foret una ab unitate; sumpsit exordium dum Christus edificavit ecclesiam super unum, soli enim Petro dixit Tu es Petrus et super hanc petram edificabo ecclesiam, providens autem ecclesiam in membris persecutionem passuram ne illius unitas scinderetur ad regimen eius multos voluit confirmare unde et Petrum et in persona ipsius te pater et domine reverende, ac alios, quibus hoc

¹ A wrong reference; the quotation is from *Ephes.* 4.

competit, hortatur ad regimen ecclesie alios confirmare. Luce enim xxij scribitur Ecce Satanas expetivit vos ut cribraret sicut triticum et tu aliquando conversus confirma fratres tuos. Et ad Titum, 3, ait Apostolus Volo te de his confirmare ut [qui credunt] curent et ipsi operibus bonis preesse. Juxta ergo id quod sic hortatur sacra scriptura fratres tuos pater reverende confirma et precipue hunc nostrum electum ad cuius confirmationem nedum movere vos debent pericula vacantis ecclesie, sed etiam ut premititur valor electe persone, quod est secundum, de quo brevius.

Reverende pater, illis, sicut dicit Thomas de Capua[?] ¹ in quadam epistola, committendum est regimen sponse Christi qui sunt morum honestate decori, qui in operando sunt etiam srenui [*sic*] qui subditos exemplis bonis informent et que legi coniugali debentur exsolvant, qui etiam i . . . a a discipline solvant debitas penas culpae, subditosque nec nimio rigore coerceant nec nimia levitate relaxent; sed quis in hiis omnibus sicut iste? Satis utique preclaros alumpnos et filios peperit ecclesia Wygorniensis, sed hunc quidem multis peperit clariorem quem natura ditavit uberius, quem ceteris specialius ditavit virtutibus. Huius enim tota conversatio scola extitit honestatis morum edificatio et s . . . uttura salutis a is adolescentie motibus sicut notum est hiis qui noverunt instar patris nostri sanctissimi Wlstani cepit morum maturitate se . . . sdem et in seipso carnis motus (67) illicitos cohibere. Elegit abiectus esse in domo Dei magis quam habitare in tabernaculis peccatorum, relinquere palmas Egipti et regulari ritu vestis militare iustitie. Hincque vocatus est a Domino tanquam Aaron ad dandam salutis scientiam plebi eius, reddere populum acceptabilem domino, sectatorem bonorum operum, et parare Domino plebem perfectam. Elegit eum Dominus sibi in sacerdotem ut esset in populo eius ductor et doctor, vite speculum, morum seminarium et sanctitatis exemplum, qui velud fidelis servus et prudens quem nedum contemplativum esse quesivit sed activum, sicut Pater Gregorius dist: in capitulo decrevit, Marie officium explevit et Marthe contemplans devotius cum Maria et fratrum utilitatibus ministrans cum Martha. Hunc itaque quia fidelis extitit super pauca iam elegit dominus ad maiora, ut sic velut lignum quod transplantatur fructum plus afferat, et ut lucerna super candelabrum posita gloriosius cunctis irradiet. Hanc electionem, pater, confirmare te convenit, hortante hoc scriptura sacra Deuteron. xvij, que dicit quod Constitues quem Dominus Deus elegerit. Cum etiam [dicit] decretum . lxj . distinctione *Miramur*, quod merito beatorum patrum venerabiles sanctiones, cum de prelatorum electionibus loquerentur, eos ad administrationes sacras censuerunt idoneos, quorum

¹ Thomas of Capua seems to be otherwise quite unknown. Possibly this is one of the scribe's numerous false references, and due to the word "capud" having dropped out

from the line above, after "secundum," where it would be quite in place ("the second heading").

etas a puerilibus exordiis usque ad perfectiores annos per discipline stipendia cucurisset, nec possit, ut dicit idem decretum, de ipsius idoneitate dubitari cui pro laboribus multis, pro moribus castis, pro actionibus strenuis celsioris loci debetur premium. Movere ergo vos debet, reverende pater, ad confirmandam hanc electionem tante persone congruitas quam idoneam suadet ea quam prius habuit dignitas quam ita idoneam probat utcumque quod alias electa fuerat et confirmata, unde decet quod nunc faciliter munus confirmationis optin[endum?] prius, sicut decet et res de facili redit ad suam naturam sicut . . . ens ff. de pactis, l. si unus . . . pactus ne peteret quod in specie dotis¹. Tertio autem, pater et domine reverende, sicut premissum est movere vos debet ad confirmationem huius electionis nedum periculum vacantis ecclesie ac valor electe persone set observantia forme debite. Forma enim, sicut dicit philosophus, rem perficit, que si desit res deficit, sicut habetis xxxij qu . . . quod vero non formatur. (67b). Volentes ergo quod facturi eramus esse profectum, nec ex defectu forme deficere ecclesia Wygorniensis per mortem domini Thome de Hemenhale² dudum pastoris eiusdem, quem cum placita esset deo anima illius properavit illum de medio iniquitatis educere, illumque aliquibus diebus in infirmitate deductis de hoc seculo nequam quod forte eo dignum non erat eripuit; ipsius corpore cum solempnitate debita tumultato huius substituendi pastoris processum ad tempus quorundam fratrum differret absentia, eo tamen eos reducende cui facile est disiuncta coniugere et inter se distantia insimul adunare; prefixo die novum eligendi pontificem, maneque ipsius diei missarum solempniis in honorem Sancti Spiritus celebratis, hincque congregato capitulo ac preposito verbo Dei qua via in electionis negotio vellemus procedere, singuli requisiti unanimiter descendimus per viam procedere compromissi, assistente itaque benigno sapientie spiritu qui devote sic se invocantibus semper adest electi sunt compromissarii summe concorditer, qui data eis et acceptata potestate, [cum] solis occasum eiusdem diei horam statuissent futuram de seipsis vel aliis de gremio et non aliunde pastorem seu pontificem providendi, secedentes in partem post aliquantulum de future substitutione tractatum hunc virum a virtute dictum unanimiter duxerunt eligendum, quemque unus eorum de aliorum mandato vice eorum et sua et omnium de capitulo infra terminum temporis sic statuti post elegit coram omnibus. Hunc ergo canonice sic electum cum laudis cantico deo optulimus in altari, factaque super hoc publicatione communi ipsius ad electionem de se factam, . . . situs est legitime et in fine hoc non modicum reniteretur optentus. Huius ergo reverende pater tam canonice electionis

¹ The MS. is here very defective, and it is impossible to make anything out of this apparent reference to the Digest.

² Bishop of Worcester, 1337—1338.

sententiam tam concordem tam unanimem, Sancto ut speramus Spiritui placitam nunc confirmare et suo tempore consecrare digneris, ut sic iuxta imprecationem psalmiste Fiat manus tua super virum dextere tue et super filium hominis quem confirmasti, quod ipse prestare dignetur qui etc.

Mandate by the Prior of the cathedral church of St. Mary of Worcester (appointed by John¹, Bishop of Worcester, to collect the tithe granted for the defence of the Kingdom at the last convocation of the province of Canterbury) to the Official of the Archdeacon of Worcester, directing him to notify the persons concerned of the appointed dates of payment.

68. A similar mandate, demanding payment already called for several times.

68b. *Illegible.*

69. Receipt by Richard², Abbot of Wynch[combe] for 40s. from the Abbot of St. Peter of Gloucester, at the term of the Annunciation 1328[-9] in part payment of £4 a year for the weir of Fremleie, for the payment of which £4 a year the Abbot of Gloucester had pledged his manor of Northlech.

69b. *The upper part illegible.*

The Prior of Wynchecombe to Richard II., begging leave to elect an abbot in place of their deceased abbot, Walter de Wynforton. (*Part cut away.*)

¹ John de Thoresby, 1349—1352.

² Richard of Idbury, 1315—1340.

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